





# Bickering brothers in arms stage nightmarish preview of devolution

A nightmare preview of the parliamentary years the locusts will eat, if or when a Labour Government tries to bring in Scottish devolution, occurred yesterday afternoon at the Commons.

It was 3.30. On a Point of Order Michael Martin (Lab, Springburn) raised a complaint about a fellow Scot, Alex Salmond (SNP, Banff & Buchan) and two members of the Scottish National Party, which Salmond leads. The nationalist trio had apparently turned up for a meeting of a

Scottish Standing Committee on a Scottish Education bill and, though they were not members of it, refused to leave.

Tony Newton, Leader of the House, moved a motion empowering the chairman of the committee to remove such people and a short debate followed in which embarrassed and angry Scots Labour MPs ganged up with government MPs to squash the SNP, easily winning the vote which followed.

But Alex Salmond, the leader of the Scottish National

Party, who started by implying that as a Scot he took no interest in the England-Germany semi-final, made an impassioned and part-convincing speech.

The point he and fellow-protesters were making was a simple one, he said: several MPs for English constituencies sat on the Scottish Standing Committee, yet the legislation it was examining related only to Scotland. Why should English MPs be deciding Scottish matters?

"It's an affront," said Salmond, "that people who



**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

are not qualified to do so should be allowed to debate and decide. "Why involve English MPs in 'specifically Scottish matters'?"

"Because it's our money!" shouted Peter Luff (C, Worcester), referring to the subsidy which English MPs insist that Scotland as a whole enjoys from the Treasury.

Throughout what followed,

Scots MPs sniped at each other in an often personal way. George Foulkes (Lab, Carrick, Cumnock & Doon Valley) accused SNP members of failing to pull their weight on committees, while Salmond insisted that he did volunteer. Salmond insisted that his party's logic was consistent: their MPs never voted on specifically English matters.

he said: "We don't interfere in English business." There followed an ill-tempered dispute over why, in that case, the SNP had voted on English nursery school provision.

And the debate spluttered angrily on. For much of the time it took the aspect of an internal dispute between Scots, with English MPs looking on with ill-concealed amusement, intervening mischievously to stir things up. Labour's front bench appeared dismayed and irritated. Ann Taylor, the Shadow Leader of the House, said that

SNP behaviour was "juvenile".

But nobody challenged Salmond's twice-made assertion that the participation of English MPs in Scottish affairs was "a running sore". Rightly or wrongly, it has been. And nobody challenged the logic of Salmond's contention that if English MPs were to be banned from Scottish business, then Scots MPs should keep out of English business.

Under the Opposition's plans for a devolved Scottish Parliament, English MPs will

be banned from Scottish business. For this sketchwriter the second half of Mr Salmond's contention hung in the air. Half way through the debate, Labour's Tam Dalyell, previously MP for West Lothian (now for Linlithgow) drifted in, sat down, and watched silently.

Like Banquo's ghost, Dalyell, whose "West Lothian Question" — Salmond's contention — helped to wreck the last Labour Government's devolution plans, haunted us: a baleful portent of things to come.

## Labour softens tax powers of Scots' national assembly

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR will pledge today to let the people of Scotland decide if they want their own parliament and whether it should have tax-raising powers. In a policy shift, George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, will announce that the party will hold a referendum in the first months of a Labour government.

But, in a bid to defuse the Tory campaign against Labour's "Tartan tax", the referendum will also seek a mandate for any tax-raising powers. It will pose two questions: "Do you want to have a Scottish Parliament?" and "Do you think it should have tax-raising powers?"

The plan was attacked by Labour MPs, who claimed that they had not been consulted about a scheme which "flew in the face of existing policy".

John Major revised a speech on the constitution last night to accuse Labour of "retreating and dodging" the argument. "The Opposition wriggle and turn to try to avoid answering the questions that expose the folly of their plans," he said.

Tony Blair hopes to wrongfoot Mr Major by getting the biggest possible public backing for a Scottish Parliament and making it more difficult for a future government to reverse the plans. He is confident that the

Scotts will overwhelmingly support devolution. But the decision to let the Scots decide if their parliament should have the power to raise or cut taxes by 3p — which is current Labour policy — is a significant softening of the party's position.

Over the past six months a committee of senior front-benchers, including Mr Robertson, and Donald Dewar, the Shadow Chief Whip, has been mulling over the best way of watering down a long-standing, but potentially damaging, policy. Mr Dewar confirmed last night that the vote would be for Scots only and would be won or lost on a simple majority.

The Labour leadership has recently made clear that tax-raising powers would not be used in the first parliament. But Mr Blair is determined to stop the Tories exploiting the issue by insisting that the parliament would have no tax-raising powers if the Scottish people decided against it.

He is expected to allay any fears that Labour intends to break up the United Kingdom when he speaks in Edinburgh on Friday. He will also confirm that the party plans a referendum on a Welsh assembly.

Last night Scottish Labour MPs demanded a meeting with Mr Robertson so that he would explain the new policy,

which had not been discussed by the Shadow Cabinet. George Galloway, Labour MP for Hillhead, said: "I'm very angry about it, in common with a very large number of my colleagues. There has been no consultation about it. It flies utterly in the face of our existing policy."

Many MPs feared that the new proposal was a signal that Mr Blair intended to delay or ditch the plans altogether. But Mr Robertson insisted: "There will be no slippage. There will be no delay. There will be no obstructionism and there will be no alteration to the firm commitment to delivering the legislation on a Scottish Parliament in the first year of a Labour government."

"We want to make sure that the Scottish parliament we create is going to be secure, will have a long life and will be safe from the predatory instincts of some right-wing Tory who might come in."

The Liberal Democrats yesterday appeared to back away from their opposition to a referendum on devolution. While both Paddy Ashdown, the leader, and Jim Wallace, the party's Scottish spokesman, emphasised that they favoured securing popular consent through a general election, they refused to say whether or not they would support Labour's move.

## Wimbledon title goes to rank outsider

By ALAN HAMILTON

AN anonymous telephone bidder yesterday paid £188,000 for the lordship of the manor of Wimbledon, an ancient title which has nothing to do with tennis.

Pointedly sold during Wimbledon fortnight and with several leading players including Boris Becker rumoured to be among the would-be purchasers, the title was offered by Earl Spencer, brother of the Princess of Wales, to help pay for essential repairs at the family seat of Althorp, Northamptonshire.

The price — £171,000 before buyer's premium and more than three times its pre-sale estimate — far exceeds the previous record of £110,000 paid by an American for the lordship of the manor of Stratford-upon-Avon.

Lordships, which come with no money or lands, and only occasionally the most vestigial feudal rites, are now common currency at auction as the aristocracy unloads its unwanted baggage. Wimbledon was sold in ten minutes of bidding between two telephone hopefuls in the suitably manorial setting of Stationers' Hall, a City livery company. Robert Smith, the auctioneer, played to the packed house by wearing a wing collar.

Bidding, which was between two agents, opened at £25,000, and climbed sometimes in £100 steps and sometimes in thousands, until the agent in the brown suit on the



Robert Smith, who conducted the auction

mobile phone gave way to the man in a black suit on the terrestrial phone. Mr Smith, who also represents the Manorial Society of Great Britain, which promotes lordships of the manor, conceded afterwards that he thought it would go for £100,000.

The lordship of Wimbledon dates from the Domesday Book of 1086. It was seized by Henry VIII at the Dissolution of the Monasteries, sold to a director of the South Sea Company in the 18th century, and, when that bubble burst, was bought by Sarah Churchill, wife of the first Duke of Marlborough, who left it to the Spencer family in 1744.

The new owner of the lordship may style him or herself Lord of Wimbledon, or Lord of the Manor of Wimbledon, and may even put the title in his or her passport. But he or she owns nothing, cannot call him or herself Lord, cannot expect a seat in the Lords, cannot wear ermine, and definitely cannot expect any favours from the All England Club.

Sport, pages 40, 41

## Portillo under fire over sale of service quarters

By MICHAEL EVANS AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

MICHAEL PORTILLO was facing one of his toughest challenges since becoming Defence Secretary as he tried to persuade sceptical Tory backbenchers yesterday to support his plan to sell 60,000 service married quarters.

He summoned a hastily arranged press conference at the Ministry of Defence to explain why he was determined to continue with the sale, despite more than 60 Tory MPs signing a Commons motion demanding further consultation with service families and final approval from both Houses.

With four bids already in from interested consortiums and the decision on the winning bid due to be announced in the first week of August, Mr Portillo made it clear that he could not afford any further delays. He conceded that a small number of MPs had "deep reservations", but claimed that most of the 65 who signed a critical Commons motion had done so because they needed further explanation.

However, fellow ministers conceded that he might have to water down the proposals to win backbench support. One said: "There's no question of dropping it, but it may have to be more attractive." One option is to increase the amount being spent on refurbishing and improving married quarters above the £100 million promised by John Major on Tuesday.

More than a dozen MPs have already withdrawn their names from the Commons motion. Some have been persuaded to do so after being promised a Commons debate. However, headline Tory critics of the scheme insisted that they would support the plans only if there was full consultation and if a debate was followed by a formal vote. They criticised Mr Portillo for taking an aggressive stance after he said it would be "irresponsible" to back down.

Government sources have suggested that the campaign, backed by many of John Redwood's supporters, is being co-ordinated by the former Cabinet minister in an effort to embarrass Mr Portillo. Mr Redwood has dismissed the suggestion. Mr Portillo said that the £1.6 billion expected from the sale had been taken into account as part of the Government's overall financial strategy. Apart from the damage an aborted sale would do to the Chancellor's ability to introduce tax cuts before the general election, MoD sources said there were fears that impending procurement contracts could be affected.

A series of defence orders are due to be announced over the next few weeks. They include a £650 million contract for an air-launched conventionally armed stand-off missile and a £725 million anti-armour weapon.

## Competition to rebuild bombed city

Ideas for rebuilding Manchester city centre are to be thrown open to an international competition, Michael Heseltine said yesterday. The Deputy Prime Minister, on a visit to see the extent of the damage, said the IRA bomb had produced a "perhaps unique" chance to build a city for the 21st century.

After touring the shattered shopping and business centre and talking to civic leaders, Mr Heseltine told a news conference: "There will be an international competition to provide a range of ideas for an innovative concept and I have agreed that we in central government will help to finance that competition."

## Tube strike could cause standstill

Hundreds of thousands of London commuters face disrupted journeys to work today as striking Underground train drivers threaten to bring the network to a standstill.

A one-day stoppage by 2,000 Aslef drivers could inflict the worst transport disruption on the capital for seven years, although London Transport hopes to run a limited service. Aslef union leaders ordered the action in a dispute about working hours.

## Renewed hope in postal dispute

A second postal strike will go ahead from noon today but hopes of resolving the dispute were raised yesterday when union leaders decided against calling further walkouts.

Alan Johnson, joint general secretary of the Communication Workers Union, said he hoped a period of calm reflection would allow a settlement to be achieved. He said negotiations with the Royal Mail earlier this week had been useful.

## Mental patients increase by half

The number of people compulsorily admitted to psychiatric hospital over the past five years has risen by 55 per cent, Government figures showed yesterday. There was also a 29 per cent rise in voluntary admissions and a three-fold rise for private mental nursing homes.

The Department of Health statistics showed the number of formal admissions to all facilities rose from 17,400 in 1989-90 to 27,100 in 1994-95.

## Airline collapse blamed on media

Excellair Airways, the charter airline whose passengers refused to fly to Florida this week on a 23-year-old DC-10 delayed by a series of technical problems, went into liquidation last night.

Liquidators Deloitte and Touche blamed "sensationalised media coverage" of the delays for the collapse, which has stranded hundreds of passengers who were due to fly out today.

Travel, pages 22, 23

## Reporter paid high price for dedication

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE award-winning Irish journalist shot dead in Dublin yesterday uncovered some of the country's most notorious criminals.

Veronica Guerin, 33, nicknamed most of her subjects as a way of getting around the libel laws. By using names such as The Monk and The Walrus, she was able to go into detail about the men, their families and their finances.

Most of her work concentrated on Dublin men dealing in drugs, although she has written on the IRA. Last Sunday she wrote that a Dublin IRA member sanctioned the robbery in Adare, Co Limerick, in which the policeman Jerry McCabe was shot dead.

Much of what she wrote landed her in trouble. Last December she was shot in the right thigh by a masked man who called at her cottage in Cloughran, Co Dublin. Guerin and detectives believe a Dublin criminal she exposed was responsible.

Shots were fired at her house on a number of occasions and last year she was beaten up when she went to interview a known criminal in Kill, Co Kildare. She persisted with her reports, rejecting

suggestions that she was a target. "I don't feel that I did anything differently to what any other journalist has done," she said shortly after the shooting last year.

Numerous death threats have been made to other Dublin journalists, including those at the Irish Times, Sunday World and the Star.

Ms Guerin trained as an accountant. She entered journalism six years ago after a brief period as a researcher with the Sunday Business Post and the Sunday Tribune before joining the Sunday Independent. She seldom worked from the newsroom, preferring instead to work alone. She had a good working relationship with the police.

Sam Smyth, a colleague, said she was completely dedicated. "She really, really enjoyed her work. I have never seen anybody get as much fun out of work."

Last year she was awarded the International Press Freedom Award from the International Committee to Protect Journalists. She was married to Graham Turley, a construction worker. They had one child, Cathal, aged seven.

## More primary pupils in big classes

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST a third of primary school pupils are being taught in classes of over 30 after a big increase in sizes over last year.

Twenty per cent more children are in groups bigger than 35, while the number in classes of 31 or more has risen by 9 per cent to 1.26 million, according to government figures disclosed yesterday.

Teachers claimed the figures showed the impact of the Government's squeeze on local authority budgets in recent years. A survey for the National Union of Teachers showed 9,000 teachers were made redundant in the summer term last year.

In secondary schools, the number of students in classes

of 31 or more rose by 17 per cent to 234,800, while those in groups of 36 or more fell from 4,500 to 3,400, according to the 1996 provisional figures for England published by the Department for Education and Employment.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the NUT, said: "This is the sixth year running that class sizes have deteriorated. This Government cannot claim it is interested in standards while it reduces opportunities for every child by allowing this situation to worsen." Education was not being properly funded.

A spokesman for the department echoed the views of Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, who said earlier this year that class size had little impact on the quality

of education. The spokesman added: "The number of primary school children in classes over 35 is 90,000 lower than in 1979. There are less very small classes now which has kept down the average in the past."

He said several factors accounted for recent rises, including local authority decisions on how to split funding between primary and secondary schools and parents sending their children to popular schools.

The figures show the percentage of all primary school children in classes of 31 or above rose from 26.1 in 1986 to 31.8 this year. The average primary class size is now 27.3 children, compared with 25.5 in 1986.

The average secondary school class size has remained

fairly static over ten years, rising slightly from 20.6 to 21.6 pupils. Although the number of secondary pupils in large classes has shown an annual rise, it is three-quarters of the total in 1986.

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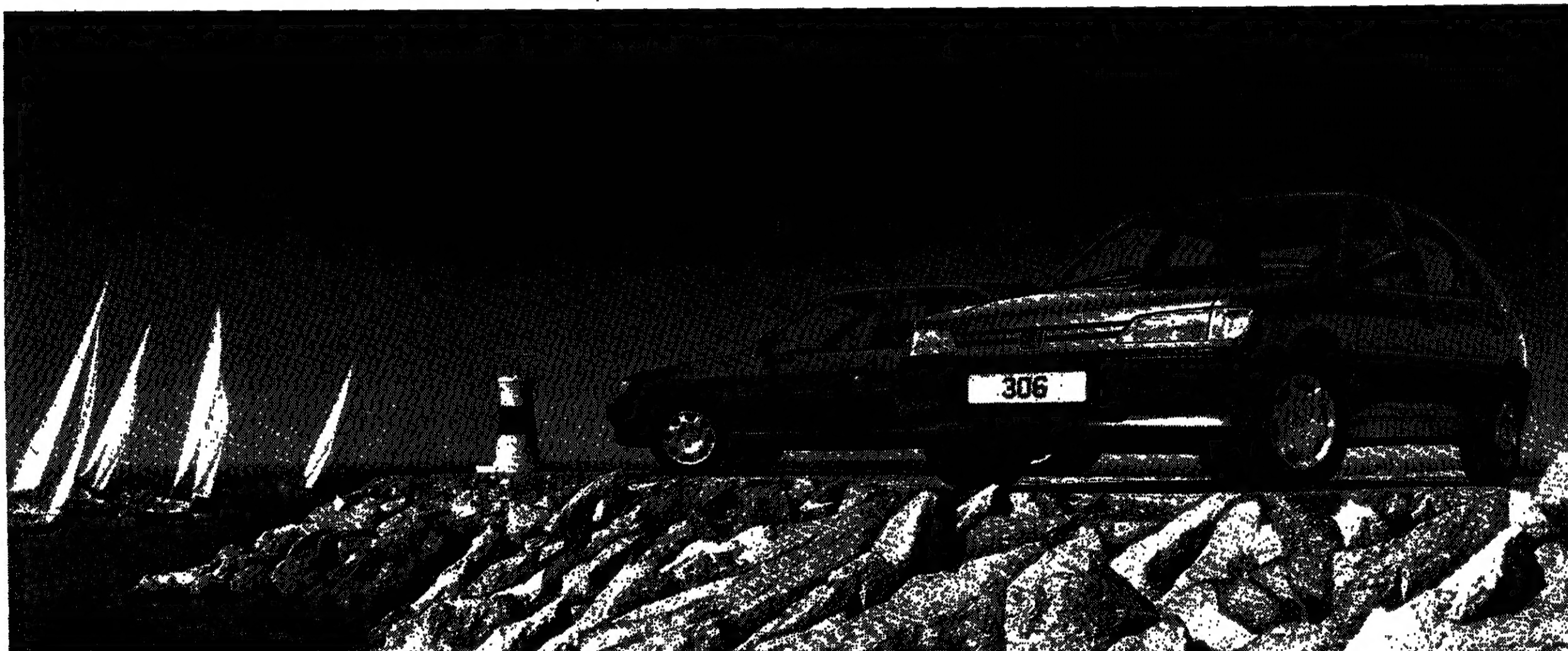
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## Little girl 'murdered at end of a perfect day'

By KATE ALDERSON

A GIRL aged seven, abducted from a tent in her uncle's garden after spending a perfect summer's day with her family, was murdered in a crime "which almost defies belief", a court was told yesterday.

Sophie Hook had travelled with her family to Llandudno in North Wales last July to celebrate her cousin's ninth birthday with a family barbecue, games of charades and a camp fire.

Chester Crown Court was told that a "glorious hot summer's day" ended with Sophie causing with her sister and cousin in the fenced back garden of her uncle Danny Jones's house. Gerard Elias QC, for the prosecution, said the small girl — she was 4ft 11in tall — had settled down for the night in her sleeping bag when Howard Hughes stole into the tent and took her.

The 31-year-old unemployed gardener strangled her and threw her body in the sea, Mr Elias said. Mr Hughes, a single man who lived with his mother in Colwyn Bay, denies raping and murdering the child in the early hours of Sunday, July 30.

Mr Elias said: "These atrocities reveal a depth of wickedness and depravity and whoever perpetrated them almost defies belief."

The court was told that Sophie's cousin had been given a tent for his birthday by his grandparents and, during the Saturday afternoon the tent was put up in the large garden. "Once erected the children were full of it," Mr Elias said. They pestered their

parents until they agreed that they could sleep in it that night. "It seemed the end of a perfect family day."

During that afternoon, while the children were playing in the garden, Mr Hughes had been seen hovering on the other side of the fence on a bridge path a few yards away, listening to their chatter. In their innocent play these children, wearing little or nothing, had made targets for his depravity.

Later that evening, Mr Hughes had returned to Llandudno and allegedly tried to abduct another seven-year-old girl who was playing less than four minutes' cycle ride from the Jones's garden.

At about 12.45am on the night of the attack Mr Jones had checked on the three children and zipped up the tent. He had gone to bed leaving the patio door open and the garden gate bolted.

Mr Elias said Mr Hughes took Sophie between 1.30 and 2.30am. He had kept Sophie from calling out by placing his hand over her mouth as he took her from the garden.

It was then that Mr Hughes raped and murdered Sophie, Mr Elias said. Her death had been caused by manual strangulation. Her clothes had been taken off. Her body had been washed up on the shore and found by a passer-by shortly after 7am. She had been violently assaulted and suffered broken arm and extensive bruising.

Mr Hughes had denied any involvement in the murder during five days of questioning in police custody. Mr Elias said that Mr Hughes's father, Gerald, a successful businessman, then visited his son and Mr Hughes subsequently confessed the murder to him and told him where her clothing could be found.

During a search of Mr Hughes's home, a collection of children's underwear had been found in a stone wall in the garden. The defendant had an obsession with sex with children, Mr Elias said. "He had an intention and a determination at this time to carry his fantasy into reality." The trial continues.



Sophie: taken from tent

## Abandoned cuddly toy was first clue

By KATE ALDERSON

JULIE HOOK, 35, Sophie's mother, said in a written police statement read out in court yesterday: "The sight of 'Blankies', Sophie's cuddly toy in the tent, was the first real evidence she had gone missing. She never went anywhere without it."

She described how the cousins had been very close and regularly contacted each other by telephone and visited one another's homes regularly. "I would describe them as good friends. On occasion we would have sleepovers, swapping the children around."

"Both families had planned to meet on Sunday [the day Sophie's body was found] in Chester to see a Batman movie. Sophie and her sister had identical Winnie the Pooh nighties and Sophie wouldn't go anywhere without 'Blankies'. Because it was such a lovely day Sophie took her clothes off and was running around wearing just her knickers. I went at about 4pm after they cut the birthday cake and sang Happy Birthday. The children waved goodbye."

Mrs Hook and her husband

Chris received a phone call the next morning saying Sophie was missing. They drove to Llandudno and after conferring with police identified their daughter's body.

Mr Hook, 38, said he often warned his children about going with strangers: "We instilled in Sophie how she must not go with strangers. She was wary of people she did not know and I can't believe she would willingly go away from Danny's house, let alone from the garden. She was a healthy child with no medical problems. She had never wandered away or become separated from us in the past."

Danny Jones, Sophie's uncle, said of his niece's last afternoon: "She had been enjoying herself, playing charades. They were more like brothers and sisters than cousins. Sophie was just a typical seven-year-old excited about camping out. My son had come back in the house because the others had frightened him talking about ghosts."

None of Sophie's relatives was in court to hear the opening day of evidence.

## Broadcasters chided after 'freak shows'

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BROADCASTING watchdogs are to warn television and radio companies against "victim entertainment" in which people's misfortunes and peculiarities are exploited as if they were performers in a Victorian freak show.

The warning comes after viewers' complaints about the way people with "interesting" medical conditions were shown in documentaries. The Broadcasting Standards Council has upheld three complaints on the issue in its bulletin

published today and will raise the matter with broadcasters next month when it publishes its annual report.

One ruling was against Vanessa Feltz, which featured a 16-month-old baby suffering from a condition known as premature sexual maturation. The council said it was uneasy about the display of young children in a talk show with a live studio audience, particularly in a case centring on intimate details.



Lisa Smith leaving court in Bangkok yesterday with a British Embassy official

## Drugs girl freed at cost of £40,000

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK

LOOKING fresh, fit and suntanned, 20-year-old Lisa Smith, the latest Briton to face drugs charges in Thailand, walked from court in Bangkok to a waiting limousine yesterday after being told that there was nothing to stop her flying home.

The ruling came 12 days after a secretive bail agreement had been arranged by her father, giving her freedom at a cost of £40,000.

Miss Smith was arrested at Bangkok airport in January. Police said originally that she was carrying 4kg of opium and 500 amphetamine tablets. Yesterday she was charged with possessing and trafficking in 4kg of cannabis and 500 amphetamine tablets.

Wearing make-up, a blue tunic and ankle-length white skirt, she contrasted with the procession of foreign prisoners who usually go to court looking pale, often in chains and always wearing drab, brown, prison overalls.

She was allowed to sit not in the dock but next to her three lawyers. After the short hearing her criminal lawyer said: "She is only making one plea: not guilty. She will return to

face the charges. She will say she was framed."

Putri Kuvanonada, representing the family on the bail agreement, said: "She has received bail unconditionally. She is free to go wherever she wants but she must turn up on August 23 for the next hearing. If she does not, the family will forfeit the bail and a warrant will be issued for her arrest."

Miss Smith faces between five and 20 years in jail if convicted. In theory, her bail deal allows her to cut and run at any time during her trial, which could last years.

Bail has never before been given to foreigners in heroin or opium cases for that reason. But the £40,000 bond is four times that paid into court by Joseph McCracken, a Scot currently on trial for murder.

Within 24 hours of Miss Smith's arrest, her father, Terence, chief executive of National Mutual Assurance (Asia), based in Hong Kong, arrived with her mother to take care of her case and appoint lawyers.

He has since asked British Embassy officials and lawyers to make no comment on the case.

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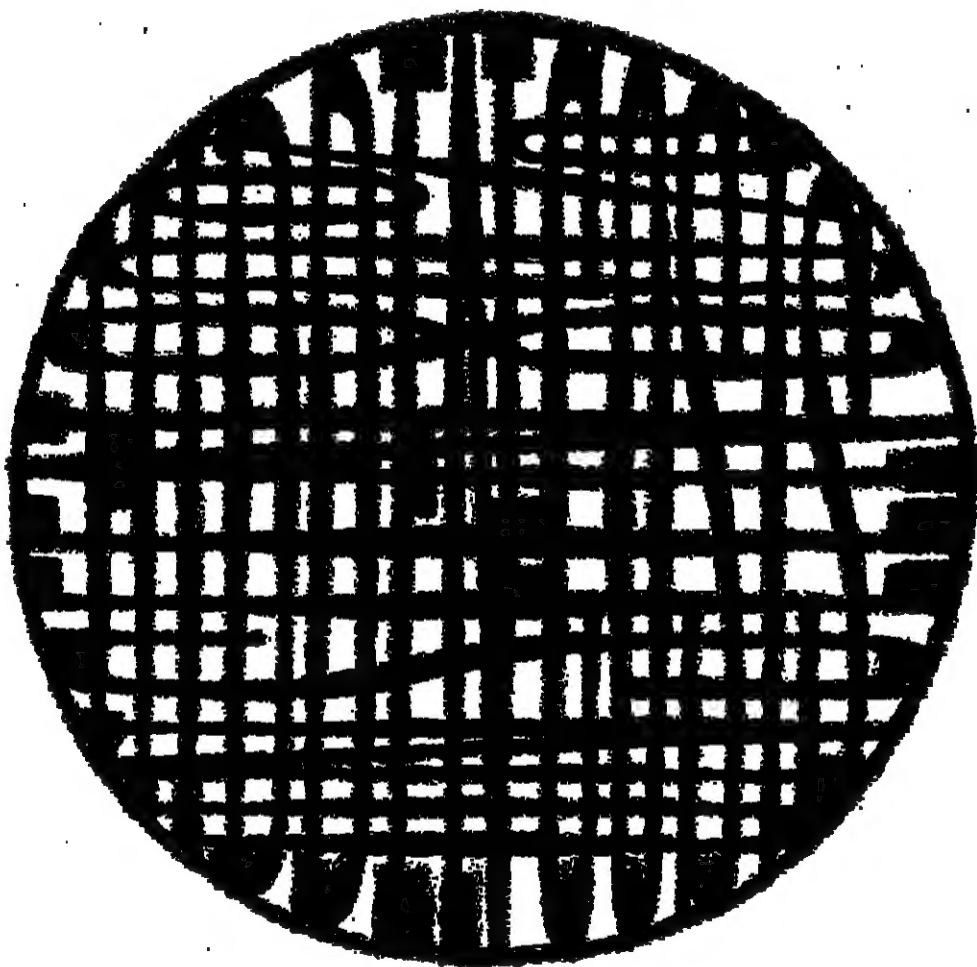
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# Regional trends survey

## Poor man of Europe still lags behind Continent

By Dominic Kennedy, Social Affairs Correspondent

MOST of the United Kingdom is poorer than the rest of the European Union, with only the South East and East Anglia wealthier than the continental average.

The first detailed survey of trends in the expanded Europe of 15 states shows spending power in Britain lagging far behind many member states while lifestyles are also less comfortable. The UK has the ninth highest gross domestic product per head in the Union, behind Luxembourg, Belgium, Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, The Netherlands and Italy. Only Sweden, Finland, Ireland, Spain, Portugal and Greece are poorer.

Most Italians now have more spending power than the Welsh, while Finland and northeast Spain are richer than the North of England. The troubles in Northern Ireland have made long-term unemployment in the region worse than almost anywhere else in Europe.

The North of England, Scotland and Northern Ireland have some of the lowest rates of car ownership, with fewer vehicles than the Portuguese. Scotland has the highest death rate apart from three German regions.

More than three quarters of the workforce in southeast England is in the service sector; only Brussels, Ile de France, West-Nederland and the Canaries have higher proportions.

The figures are disclosed in *Regional Trends*, published today by the Government's Statistical Service.

Southwest England has the oldest population outside northern and central Italy,

with one in five people aged 65 or over. Scotland, Wales, the North and North West of England have some of the highest death rates from circulatory causes.

One of the few positive findings is that the average yields of wheat and barley in Yorkshire, Humberside, the East Midlands and East Anglia are among the highest in Europe.

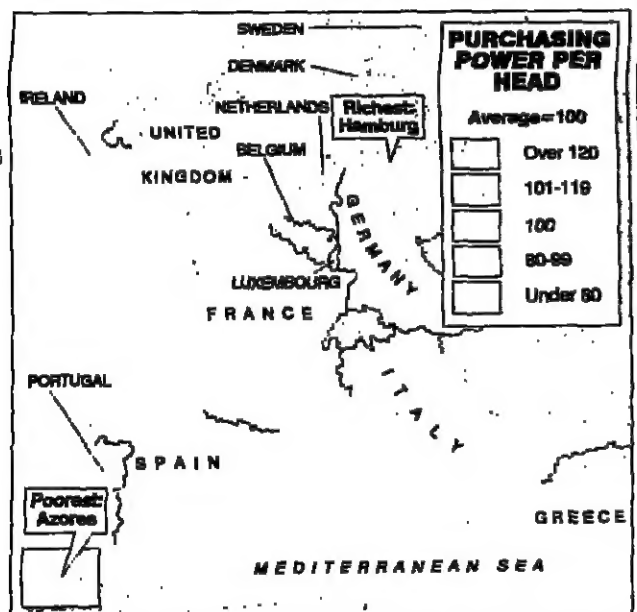
The richest region of Europe is Hamburg, followed by Ile de France and Luxembourg. The tiny, densely populated north German state is home to 1.7 million people who each have almost twice as much to spend as the British.

They make their fortune, as do many of the wealthiest parts of the Continent, from working in service industries, with low proportions of the population employed in industry and little reliance on agriculture.

The poorest part of the Union is the Azores, whose 240,000 inhabitants have less than half Britain's gross domestic product. The islands are sparsely populated, with a large proportion of the population aged 15 or under, high birth and death rates and the worst infant mortality in Europe.

The youngest part of Europe is the Irish Republic where more than a quarter of the population is aged under 16. The oldest is Emilia-Romagna in northern Italy, where a fifth is over 64.

European structural funds next year will concentrate help on Northern Ireland, with £170 million, and North West England with £120 million. □ *Regional Trends* (Stationery Office; £35.95)



## Welsh make do on smallest incomes

THE Welsh are becoming the poor relations of the United Kingdom, with their incomes and living standards dropping dramatically behind other areas (Dominic Kennedy writes).

The average household in Wales now has a lower gross weekly income even than Northern Ireland, while more homes rely on social security benefits than anywhere else in the UK. In 1980-81, the Welsh earned 91 per cent of the average English income, while the Scots took 94 per cent and the Northern Irish 78 per cent.

By 1994-95, households in Wales were taking home only 75 per cent as much as their English neighbours, while the Scots had risen to 97 per cent

and the Northern Irish to 89 per cent. A Welsh home has £282 a week to live on, compared with £375 in England.

The Welsh also spent much less per head than other Britons, only £96 a week each compared with £119 in England. More of their income went on essentials such as fuel, light and power, motor-ing and fares. They spent less on clothing and footwear, household goods and leisure.

Northern Ireland has seen a reversal of fortunes in recent years. It is the only part of the nation in which house prices have risen each year since 1989.

Ulster children are most likely to pass at least two A levels and least likely to leave school without qualifications.



Dennis MacLeod first got the taste for gold when he went panning in Sutherland

## Tycoon gets go-ahead for Scotland's first goldmine

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

A TYCOON whose ancestor sparked Scotland's only gold rush more than 100 years ago has received final planning consent for Scotland's first commercial goldmine.

Dennis MacLeod, 55, the Scots-Canadian head of the Toronto-based Caledonia Mining Corporation, will fulfil a childhood ambition when work starts on the goldmine at Cononish, near Tyndrum, Perthshire, next year.

Mr MacLeod, originally from Helmsdale, in Sutherland, became fascinated with gold at the age of ten when his uncle took him panning near by in Strath Kildonan. The new mine at Cononish, an area of outstanding natural beauty that includes Ben Lui and the native pine forest at Coille Coire Chulic, is expected to produce gold and silver ore worth £37 million. It will employ about 80 people during the development phase and will extract an estimated 25,000 ounces of gold a year.

Caledonia Mining employs 1,500 people worldwide and operates mines in South Africa and Spain. It bought the Tyndrum interests from the



Scotland's first goldrush: Kildonan in the 1860s

Irish group Fynegold Exploration for £5 million last year. There had been initial hostility from some locals and environmental groups about the proposed mine but stringent conditions have been laid down by the local authority which have satisfied the Tay River Purification Board.

Yesterday Mr MacLeod said: "Getting a goldmine up and running in Scotland is the realisation of my boyhood ambition. The corporation is committed to local community development and prosperity. We will endeavour to train and employ local people."

The 200 villagers of Tyndrum have always known there was gold in the area. Eighteenth-century miners dug for lead on the Cononish

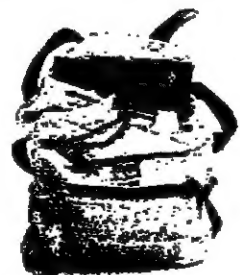
site they would have come across seams of silver and gold, but possibly too fine to recognise.

Robert Gilchrist, an ancestor of Mr MacLeod's, was responsible for Scotland's only gold rush. In 1868 he sparked a two-year frenzy at Kildonan when he returned after 17 years in the goldfields of Australia.

More than 600 prospectors took the train to Golspie and trekked 20 miles over moorland to stake their claims. Between £12,000 and £22,000 of gold was discovered before the Duke of Sutherland cleared the miners off his land on New Year's Day, 1870, after farmers complained that they were cutting into grazing land for sheep.



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# Doctors vote to boycott 'insecure' computer net

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

PATIENTS' medical records stored on a growing national NHS computer network can be obtained by insurance companies and employers because security is so lax, doctors said yesterday.

The confidentiality of information disclosed by patients in medical consultations and carried on the network cannot be guaranteed, the British Medical Association said. At its annual general meeting in Brighton doctors voted to boycott the NHS Wide Net, which links computer banks in GPs' surgeries, hospitals and health authorities, until safeguards are introduced. The net was started on April 1.

NHS trusts and GPs are expected to use the network to exchange details of patient treatments so that they may be billed and paid for electronically under the NHS market.

Dr Fleur Fisher, the BMA's head of ethics, said: "Don't link your surgery or hospital to the net until you can ensure that the data in your computers can't be leaked out anywhere else." She disclosed that the information already circulating on the net could be traced to individuals despite having been "anonymised". "Most data which the Government said has been de-identified only has the names and addresses taken off. But it leaves the postcode and date of birth, which is enough to make an identification."

An American case gave warning of what could happen in Britain, she said. A non-

executive director of a private health maintenance organisation in Boston, Massachusetts, obtained details of all patients with cancer from the computer database. As he was also a director of a local bank he was able to match the information with the list of outstanding bank loans so that he could call them in before the patients died.

Experts say that the information can be scrambled. The Health Department has agreed to discuss options with doctors' leaders.

Dr Michael Williams, a consultant paediatrician, said: "In NHS trusts computer users have to take more security measures. Most leave terminals running in public view and passwords are exchanged freely. Trusts will merely have to declare that they comply with security guidelines — but can we trust them? We need much better guarantees of security. The technical means to safeguard information is available but clearly not in place."

Dr Simon Jenkins, chairman of the BMA's information technology committee, described how Aids patients in America sought legal advice before consulting doctors.

Dr Sandy Macara, BMA Council chairman, said ministers had strung doctors along for a year with empty reassurances about the network's safety. "We wish to see the system up and running but not at the expense of any threat to patient confidentiality."

## GPs 'need treatment'

UP TO 10,000 doctors have a drink or drug problem that requires treatment but only a handful are getting the help they need, Jeremy Laurance writes.

Dr Michael Wilks, a police surgeon in west London and chairman of the BMA's drug misuse working party, told the BMA meeting that there was no evidence that they were a

danger to patients but urgent action was necessary to prevent any risk.

Organisations including the BMA and the Royal Colleges have agreed in principle the need for a treatment service that could deal with 300 to 400 doctors a year. However, the £300,000 cost has still to be found. "If we don't take action others will," Dr Wilks said.



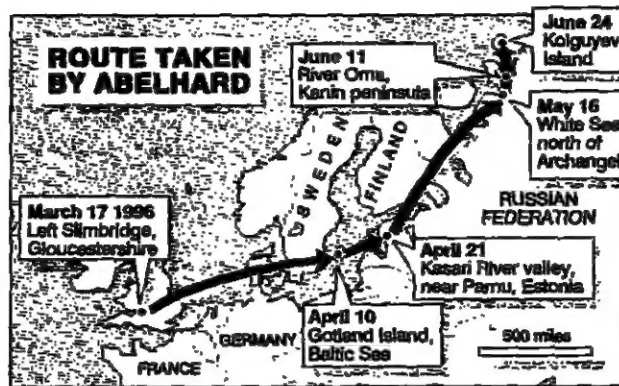
Workers celebrate after a 150-tonne boring machine linked up excavations under London Bridge yesterday to create a continuous six-mile stretch of tunnel for the Jubilee Tube line extension into east London. By August the tunnels should be finished and the line, said to be the largest construction project in Europe, is on schedule to open in March 1998. It will run from Green Park in the West End to Stratford

## Swan sends back radio travelogue

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS have tracked the 2,500-mile flight path of migrating Bewick's swans from their winter refuge in southern England to their summer breeding grounds in the tundra of northern Russia.

They strapped a tiny radio transmitter to the back of Abelhard, a 12-year-old bird, which set off from the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, on March 17 accompanied by its mate, Mid-Off. The radio's 12-inch aerial has been transmitting signals via satellite about once every 13 days to a station in Toulouse, southwest France, which feeds the information to Bristol University,



enabling researchers at Slimbridge to plot the swan's route. Abelhard's first signal was received on April 10 from Gotland Island in the Baltic Sea. After resting in Estonia, the bird entered Russia, stop-

ping on the White Sea coast in mid-May and reporting in from the mouth of the River Ona three weeks later. The most recent signal, on June 24, came from Kolguev Island in the Barents Sea.

John Bowler, the trust's swan specialist, said: "Although we have been studying Bewick's swans for 25 years, we had hardly any detailed information about their migration path. This new data will help us to protect the sites the swans visit against hunters and development."

Bewick's swans have yellow and black bills and are smaller than the mute swans that are year-round residents of Britain. They number about 45,000, up to 8,000 of which spend the winter in Britain, about 450 at Slimbridge.

The researchers are hoping for an even more detailed picture of the swan's journey back to Britain. "Abelhard will be sending back almost continuous signals, so we should have a record of every place he visits," Mr Bowler said.

## Brightest not the best for bashful fireflies

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

FEMALE fireflies favour a faster flashing rate in males rather than sheer wattage. Dr Marc Branham and Dr Michael Greenfield of Kansas University report in *Nature*.

Typically, a male firefly flies about three to nine feet off the ground emitting short bursts of flashes, each lasting a second or two. A female on the ground may reply with a dimmer flash, which often attracts the male, and a flashing duet may ensue. In propitious circumstances that can end in courtship and mating.

The two entomologists filmed the displays, simulating the flashes and varying the characteristics. They showed that females respond best to a higher flash rate.

Under half the females responded to simulated male flashing at less than 2.7 flashes a second, but more than three quarters reacted to a flash rate of four a second. Variables such as flash length or brightness did not attract them.

## Gardener dies from tetanus

A man has died from tetanus after cutting his leg while turning over his garden with a rotavator. Michael Carter, a 52-year-old carpenter, went to his local casualty department for stitches and an anti-tetanus booster injection but after returning to his home in Gayhurst, Buckinghamshire, the leg began to swell.

When tetanus was diagnosed Mr Carter, a grandfather, was transferred to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, and six days later suffered a heart attack caused by the infection. He died in intensive care on Sunday. An inquest was opened and adjourned on Tuesday.

## £87,000 aria

A previously unrecorded part of a soprano aria by Mozart, discovered wrapped in brown paper in an American attic, fetched £87,000 at Christie's in London yesterday. It was bought by an anonymous telephone bidder for more than three times the estimate.

## Dunn payout

The former heavyweight boxer Richard Dunn has agreed damages of about £300,000 after an accident on a North Sea rig in 1989. Dunn, 41, who fought Muhammad Ali for the world title in 1976, fell 40ft and broke both ankles. He walks with the aid of sticks.

## Split decision

Efforts to reunite the head of Oliver Cromwell with his body have been rebuffed by Sir George Wombwell, his descendant. He has told campaigners that the corpse will not be removed from its vault at the family home in North Yorkshire.

## Musical tryst

The singer Kim Wilde, starring in *Tommy* in London, has become engaged to Hal Fowler, another member of the cast. Fowler, who plays Cousin Kevin in the rock musical, proposed to Ms Wilde, Tommy's mother, on a break in Calais this week.

## Animal passion

Police called in a spotter plane to help in a search of Cowses golf course on the Isle of Wight after a passer-by believed he heard the sound of someone being attacked. The operation ended when the source was identified as two foxes mating.

A report referred to by Mr Ronald Bernstein, QC, in his letter, "Tackling the evil of cowboy builders" (June 20), is available from Justice, 59 Carter Lane, London EC4V 5AQ, price £4.

## Woodpecker leads flight to oblivion

By ROBIN YOUNG

A SMALL ant-eating woodpecker has been identified as Britain's biggest loser in the bird world. Once common throughout England and Wales, the wrenneck is now thought to be reduced to five breeding pairs.

It has been in decline since the mid 1800s and last bred in any numbers in Kent and Sussex before the Second World War.

The wrenneck's misfortunes, though, are almost equalled by those of the white-tailed eagle, the corn crane and the red-backed shrike, according to ornithologists who have compiled a table of winners and losers for *British Birds*, published by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

David Gibbons, Mark Avery and Andrew Brown place the white-tailed eagle second in their list of losers. It became extinct in Britain but after reintroduction from Norway there are thought to be ten breeding pairs. The secretive corn crane has been in decline for 150 years and its disappearance is now thought to be only a matter of time.

The red-backed shrike,

widespread in Britain in the 19th century, first failed to breed in England in 1989, and though a pair bred in East Anglia in 1992, it is now counted as extinct as a breeding bird. Other losers cited include the corn bunting and the black-tailed godwit. The great bustard and great auk are already gone.

The winners, the ornithologists say, are led by the tufted duck, which has boosted its population over the past two centuries to 7,500 pairs. Other birds on the increase include the Canada goose, with 75,000 pairs, and the pheasant, with more than three million breeding.

Surprisingly, studies reveal that the number of species breeding in the UK increased from 194 to 230 between 1800 and 1995, although bird populations in general declined alarmingly.

Mr Gibbons said yesterday: "We only have to go back a few human generations to find surprising and shocking changes. We may have gained a lot of birds but the losses would seem unbelievable to a Victorian birdwatcher."

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**Gardener dies from tetanus**  
A man has died from tetanus after cutting his leg while working in his garden. The man, who was 65, was found dead in his garden on Tuesday. He had been working on a flower bed. The cause of death was tetanus, which is a serious infection caused by a bacterium found in soil. The man's family has been informed of the death.

**EST. 0000**  
The estimated cost of the funeral is £1,000. The family has asked for donations to a local charity in memory of the deceased.

**JUSTICE**  
The case is being handled by the local police. The man was a well-known member of the community and his death is being treated as a tragedy.

# PoWs win review of lost wartime pay 'worth £90m'

BY ADRIAN LEE

THOUSANDS of former prisoners of war who claim they lost pay while incarcerated during the Second World War have won a fresh review of their cases. The sum involved 50 years ago was £1 million, and the 14,000 former servicemen believe it is now worth up to £90 million.

The decision by the Ministry of Defence to "thoroughly consider" the claims marks a breakthrough for the veterans after a 16-year campaign. The review will be headed by Earl Howe, the Parliamentary Under Secretary for Defence.

Those affected fall into two groups who both had money deducted from their wages while they were held captive: up to 4,000 protected personnel, such as doctors, nursing orderlies, ambulance drivers and padres; and 10,500 officers from all three services.

Under the terms of the Geneva Convention, protected personnel should have received payment from the enemy and, as a result, British paymasters made deductions of up to 50 per cent. In reality, some were never paid by the Germans and Italians, a few were paid erratically, while others were paid "laager



Captain Hugo Bracken, right, as a PoW in Germany

marks" by the enemy which were supposed to be used to buy essentials and redeemed for sterling after the war. They were virtually worthless or not refunded. Officers also received the "laager marks", which were treated as an advance on their pay.

Ordinary soldiers, who did not fall into either category, had no pay deducted and are not involved in the claim. Officers held in Japan had pay refunded after the war, while protected personnel held there did not have pay deducted. The officers have founded their own campaign group, Justice for Prisoners of War.

Graham King, who served in the medical corps as a corporal, claims £150 was deducted from his pay for five years while he was a prisoner

at Stalag 20A in Poland. Experts have calculated it is worth many thousands pounds today.

Mr King, 77, spokesman for the National Ex-Prisoners of War Association, said: "The attitude of the Government has always been that it was such a long time ago, so forget it. But many people feel disgusted by the way they were treated."

Few pay records still exist and a review in 1980 by a defence working party concluded there was insufficient evidence to reopen files. The former servicemen have since gathered new evidence.

Mr King, who was captured before the fall of Dunkirk, said he sensed a change in attitude. The outlook seemed "quite positive". Unfortunately, he

added, many colleagues who felt they were entitled to money were now dead.

Captain Hugo "Bungee" Bracken, 84, a former Fleet Air Arm flier from Groombridge, East Sussex, claims he is owed £5,300, equivalent to £276 in the 1940s. He was shot down over Norway and spent four years in a PoW camp in former Silesia. About a quarter of his pay was deducted while he was captive and he received "laager marks". He said they were worthless.

Captain Bracken said he would be happy, given the complexity of calculating back pay, if a lump sum was given to service charities. "The Government has behaved absolutely disgracefully," he said.

Charles Shelton, 77, a former medic from King's Lynn, Norfolk, said: "It's not the money, it's the principle. When I got home I was given a £100 payoff but I had no idea what I was or wasn't entitled to." He was captured at Arnhem. "It hurts me to think about the way we have been betrayed."

Confirming the review, an MoD spokesman said: "It will be looked at again but because there are no records it is a review of principle. How they could ever decide how much was owed, I don't know."



Mr Bracken at home near Tunbridge Wells. He claims he is owed £5,300 for £276 deducted from wartime pay

## Crofting family puts isles on sale

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A GROUP of uninhabited islands in the Western Isles is being offered for sale by a retired crofter.

John Mackenzie, 74, used the islands, in the Sound of Harris, for grazing sheep until he sold his flock last year. Now he and his brothers have decided to sell the estate to the highest bidder.

The islands are Ensay, Saghay Mhor, Saghay Bheag, Slaicham, Suem, Groay, Vaten, Lingay, Crago and Scaravay. They lie between Harris and North Uist, not far from the site of the planned Lingerbay superquarry. Ensay, the largest of the islands, has a small summer house, which is not owned by the Mackenzie brothers.

The Sound of Harris offers breathtaking views in the summer but is a treacherous crossing during foul weather. Mr Mackenzie, of Leverburgh, south Harris, was being coy yesterday about how much he expected the islands to raise. "It's just a case of the best offer," he said. "There has been quite a bit of interest already so I'm quite confident we will sell."

## Salmon a good catch at £6,000

BY A STAFF REPORTER

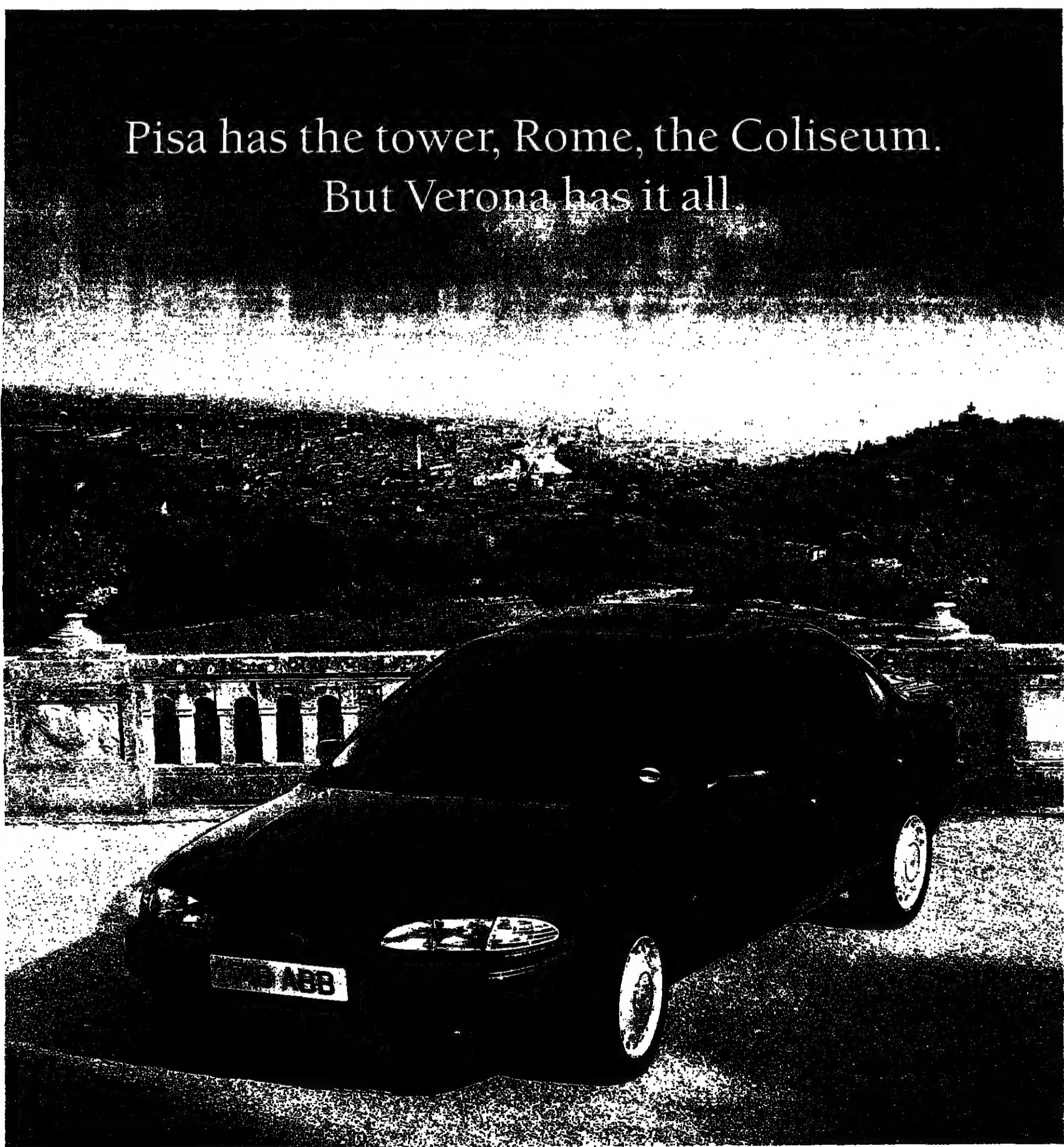
FISHING rights to two miles of one of Scotland's prime salmon rivers are being sold for £3 million. The secluded Upper Kercock and Delvine beats on the Tay, north of Perth, are on offer from Lethendy Estates, a property company, at a rate equivalent to more than £6,000 per fish.

Last year 549 salmon were caught there. Colin Strang Steel, of Knight Frank, said: "It seems like a lot of money to ask but not in relation to the number of fish that have been caught. Back in the Eighties prices were as high as £15,000 per fish."

The Upper Kercock and Delvine, near the village of Muthilly, Tayside, are among the last beats on the river not split into smaller sections or divided into timeshare lets. The most likely buyer is thought to be either a consortium of wealthy anglers or a sporting company that will lease out the rights.

The new owner will have the choice of 12 well-stocked pools, with names such as the Cottage, the Dungeon and the Garden, or the three islands in the Delvine stretch.

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# Vicar forced to quit new post in clash over women priests

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A TRADITIONALIST Church of England congregation has forced its new parish priest to resign before setting foot in the vicarage because of his support for the ordination of women.

The Rev David Burrell, 39, was due to leave his parish in Suffolk to become priest-in-charge of eight parishes around Colkirk in Norfolk. He had been interviewed and offered the job, which he accepted.

However, some of the congregation in one of his new parishes did not realise he supported women priests until the position was offered and accepted. Facing the threat of a church boycott in Colkirk, the village where he was to live, Mr Burrell felt he had no choice but to resign.

"I feel a bit angry that a small group of people can hold such sway over a whole group of parishes," he said. "I have had many messages from people in the other parishes saying they are upset."

"My bishop here in Suffolk said he would be very happy for me to stay in this diocese and has asked me to look at some other parishes. I wouldn't have been allowed to do my job as a priest. Some of the people in the parish would

not have accepted the eucharist from me."

The case is thought to be the first of its kind in the Church of England, which voted in 1992 to ordain women priests. It highlights divisions that remain in the Church which, although it has appointed "flying bishops" to look after opponents and has granted parishes the freedom to refuse a woman priest, is likely to remain unsettled about the issue for years to come.

The objectors had said they would be happy for Mr Burrell to arrange for a stand-in to celebrate communion at the 13th-century Church of St Mary the Virgin. However, if he refused, they threatened to leave the group to join a neighbouring group of parishes. Mr Burrell said it was fortunate that he had not yet signed his letter of resignation from St Mary's Church in Haughley, Suffolk, where he will now remain.

He said: "It was some weeks after my interview when the Colkirk parochial church council suddenly wrote to the bishop saying they wanted to withdraw support for me."

The bishop went to see them and I thought they had reached a compromise. But when I met the council it was

obvious that was not the case."

Diana Beck, lay vice-chairman of Colkirk church council, voted to oppose Mr Burrell celebrating communion at an emergency meeting which she called after she became aware of his support of women priests.

"We have a congregation of between 6 and 26 and I know most of them share my views opposing women priests," she said. "They would have boycotted services if he had administered the sacraments and he would have had an empty church."

She said the council did not object earlier because of "a misunderstanding". However, Bill Vyse, a Colkirk church warden who sat on the interview panel, said: "I support the ordination of women. I was looking forward to working with Mr Burrell but other members did not agree with me."

The Right Rev David Conner, the Bishop of Lynn, has met church council representatives in Colkirk to discuss appointing another priest who is acceptable to all eight parishes. He said: "I have never been involved in a case of the appointment of a priest that has broken down at such a late stage."



The Rev David Burrell, above, was supported by Bill Vyse, below left, church warden at St Mary's, Colkirk, when he was made priest-in-charge, but others forced him to resign before he had set foot in the vicarage



## Athletics body fights Modahl cash claim

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE British Athletic Federation went to the High Court yesterday in an attempt to strike out the damages claim by the Olympic athlete Diane Modahl.

Modahl, who attended the private hearing, is suing the federation for £490,000 in legal and medical costs sustained in her successful campaign to clear her name of allegations that she took performance-enhancing drugs. She is also seeking punitive damages for the way her case was handled by the federation.

Modahl was banned for four years after tests in Lisbon in 1994 appeared to show that she had a high level of testosterone in her body. The tests were eventually discredited and the ban was lifted.

The federation is understood to be arguing that it complied with the rules and that there is no foundation for a damages action. If Mr Justice Popplewell rejects its claim, the full hearing of the case is expected to take place in the autumn. The judge will give his judgment in open court tomorrow.

Modahl is currently training for the Olympics in Atlanta. She won selection for the 800m after finishing second in the national trial in Birmingham. Outside the court she said she was "very excited" by the prospect of Atlanta.

## Tong family plans move to Ireland

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE wife of Albert Tong, the illegal immigrant arrested after seeking sanctuary in a church, is hoping to take up a job offer in Ireland to enable the family to start a new life there and avoid her husband's deportation.

Becky Tong is flying to the Irish Republic with the couple's three-year-old daughter, Monica, to accept the post, according to solicitors for the family. Chris Bryan said that he was talking to the Home Office about his client joining his wife in Ireland to avoid deportation to Hong Kong.

He said Mr Tong had a right to go to Ireland because his wife was a British citizen. By working there she had European Community rights, and her husband had the right to stay there with her.

The move came as Mr Tong, 43, who had a suspected heart attack after his arrest, was being discharged from hospital yesterday. A Home Office spokesman said the movements of Mr Tong's wife

were a matter for her. "Our position remains when he is medically fit we will be deporting him to Hong Kong," the spokesman said. He would not say when that would be.

Mr Tong, who had lived for 17 years in Camborne, Cornwall, had been under observation in hospital since his collapse in Newquay police station after his arrest at Marazion Methodist Church, west Cornwall.

Lawmakers in Hong Kong yesterday added their voice to appeals to the Government to allow Mr Tong to remain in the UK in a letter of protest, signed by 48 of the 60 legislators.

Mr Tong's local support group called on Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to allow him to apply for EU citizenship as he held a British Dependent Territories passport. The Churches Commission for Racial Justice also appealed for him to be allowed to stay.

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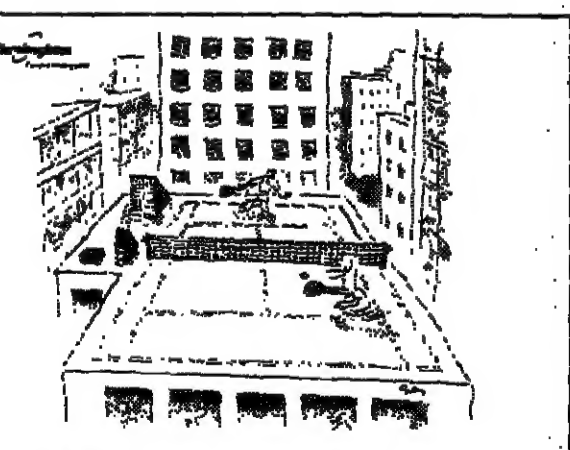
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## Need to tackle Parliament's weaknesses cannot be ignored

John Major is right that the House of Commons is at the heart of the debate over constitutional reform. That is too often ignored by the advocates of change, whether of the House of Lords, the House of Commons or the House of Lords. They frequently justify their proposals on their own terms while not taking into account the wider implications. But Mr Major is wrong to argue that this automatically undermines the case for change.

At least Mr Major recognises that the constitution is not some unchanging model of perfection and has altered since 1799. But

those very changes have themselves destabilised the constitution and the place of Parliament. Some started before 1799 — though have developed considerably since then — such as the growing power of European institutions, the broadening scope of judicial review and the omnipresence of the media in the political debate.

But other changes can be directly traced to the Tories — notably the centralisation of controls in Whitehall at the expense not only of local authorities but also of other intermediary institutions which the Tories say they value, such as universities and voluntary bodies.

### RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Mr Major fairly argued in his speech at the Centre for Policy Studies last night that the Tories have devolved management to hospitals and individual schools and have strengthened people's rights as consumers of public services. These are pluses which the reformers tend to ignore. But the overall funding control remains at the centre, not with Parliament but with the executive. Consequently, there is a clear imbalance in the constitution. The

centre is too strong and the local too weak: on that, at least, Paddy Ashdown and Jack Straw were agreed in their speeches yesterday urging wide-ranging reform. The Tories have so far failed adequately to respond to demands for a shift in this balance, particularly in Scotland. There is nothing particularly outlandish in having a Scottish parliament with a limited remit and tax-raising powers: after all, every American state and German lander has far greater responsibilities.

The problem is less what might happen within Scotland, or Wales (if a workable plan could be

devised for the perennially fractious principality) than over relations with the national Government. That is recognised in the thorough reports of the recently established Constitution Unit, which are intentionally similar to the briefs which might be produced by civil servants for an incoming Blair Government; sympathetic to the aims but noting the pitfalls. The most critical remarks in its reports are about relations with the centre, over budgets and representation at Westminster.

Any workable reform plans have to deal with these issues and the future of Parliament itself. It is

no good viewing them in separate compartments. If powers are shifted away from Westminster, as they already have been to the EU, the role of the Commons, and the Lords, has to be reconsidered. Parliament may remain, in Mr Major's words, "the focus of the nation's unity at times of national grief or outrage and the threat for the great convulsion of political history". But that does not make it effective on a day-to-day basis.

Mr Major's proposals for shifting the timing of the Queen's Speech to avoid congestion around the time of the Budget and announcing provisional legislative

plans a year ahead are sensible in a gradualist way — and are in line with the recommendations of almost every group that has looked at parliamentary reform over the past decade. But they barely deal with the central issue of ensuring that Parliament is better at scrutinising legislation and the executive.

It is no good just warning about the dangers of ill-thought-out reform, necessary though that is. But the weaknesses of Parliament have to be addressed, Mr Major offered only half a case last night.

PETER RIDDELL

## Don't tamper with fabric of the nation, says Major

By Andrew Pierce  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR opened the most far-reaching debate on the constitution for a generation last night with a warning that Labour's "dangerous" plans for reform threatened to unstick the fabric of Britain's way of life.

The Prime Minister heralded the start of a Cabinet counter-offensive against Opposition proposals on devolution, the abolition of hereditary peers, and proportional representation.

Ministers believe that the Labour leadership's change of heart on a referendum for a Scottish parliament was a further sign that it has become increasingly sensitive to Tory attacks on their plans for constitutional reform.

A succession of Cabinet ministers will enter the debate in the coming weeks with set-piece speeches defending the Union and attacking Labour.

Mr Major, in his speech last night to the Centre for Policy Studies, said that Parliament was the cement that held together the United Kingdom. "Threaten the central role of our national Parliament and you threaten that unity and stability. The differences floated by the Opposition could not fail to destabilise and, in the end, diminish the British Parliament."

Parliament had its quirks and faults but it was hard to find another country where it was so central to national life. "That is why piecemeal re-

### WHERE THE PARTIES STAND

#### CONSERVATIVES

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION: opposed, because it would give disproportionate influence to minority parties

SCOTLAND: supports the status quo

WALES: supports the status quo

HOUSE OF LORDS: supports hereditary principle

COMMONS: two-year Parliaments

#### LABOUR

PR: committed to a referendum on voting systems

SCOTLAND: expected to back a referendum on Scottish parliament with tax powers

WALES: Welsh assembly without tax-raising powers to absorb many functions of the Welsh Office

HOUSE OF LORDS: abolish right of hereditary peers to speak and vote as a first step towards reform

COMMONS: proposed reform of Question Time to one 30-minute weekly session; shorter summer recesses

#### LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

PR: single transferable vote system now used for local and European elections in Northern Ireland

SCOTLAND: separate tax-raising parliament, with fewer Scots MPs at Westminster

WALES: separate tax-raising "Senedd"

HOUSE OF LORDS: abolish hereditary peerage and create elected second chamber

COMMONS: greater consultation; tougher scrutiny of executive

life. One group of politicians could unravel what generations of our predecessors have created."

Mr Major rejected calls for a written constitution, condemned Labour's proposed abolition of hereditary peers, and poured scorn on proportional representation.

"The fact is the House of Lords has been far more effective than many overseas equivalent revising chambers," he said. "Proportional representation would damage Parliament by breaking links between citizens and constituency MPs."

The constitution was vibrant and robust but not indestructible. "People must realise that our constitution is not a piece of architecture that one can re-engineer by knocking down a wall here or adding an extension there. It's a living, breathing constitution. Its roots are ancient, but it has evolved. And it has been stable because it has popular support. That is why I care so much about our constitution. It is why I will defend our tradition, our heritage, and guard against any needless change which threatens the institutions which make us one nation."

"At the next election, just as at the last, people will be able to choose if they want embark on a voyage into the unknown, uncharted waters of tempestuous change. The choice is rightly theirs. Our task is to warn them of the perils of doing so."

Leading article, page 19



THE anti-Europe UK Independence Party is planning to field candidates in every constituency at the general election (Andrew Pierce writes).

The move, which will split the anti-federalist vote, is intended to eclipse Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, which will not challenge candidates who are committed to a referendum on Britain's future in the EU.

Sir James will confront the threat in a speech tonight to hundreds of supporters in Newcastle upon Tyne, emphasising that Britain should negotiate for change from within Europe. The UKIP is committed to Britain's withdrawal from the EU.

### Rival party threatens Goldsmith

Dr Alan Sked, the UKIP leader, said that the party, which polled 1,300 votes at the recent Staffordshire South East by-election, is said to have more than 10,000 members. The names of its first 100 candidates will be announced next week.

Attacking Sir James for the first time, Dr Sked said: "We are not a one-man band. We do not favour chequebook politics. Britain cannot find leadership from a billionaire MEP. We believe in immediate withdrawal from the EU and to replace membership with a free trade agreement."

### Nolan outlines councils inquiry

By Ian Murray  
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

THE Nolan committee outlined its programme for investigating corruption and incompetence in local government yesterday.

Councils' consideration of planning applications and tenders from outside contractors will be top of the committee's agenda. Lord Nolan, chairman of the committee on standards in public life, intends to review the rules by which councillors are required to declare any interest they have in the outcome of a decision. He also wants to look into the controversial system of making councillors repay the cost of bad decisions through a surcharge.

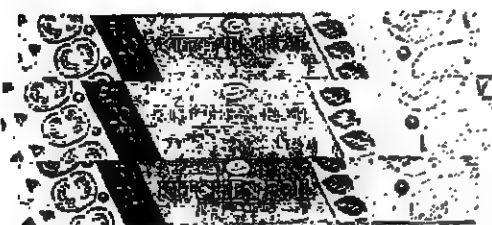
Although he will not investigate individual allegations of misconduct, he is inviting the public and organisations to tell the committee of their experiences with councils so that it can focus its report on the important issues.

Written submissions, addressed to the committee at Horse Guards Road, London, SW1P 3AL, must arrive by October 11. Public meetings on local government will be held towards the end of the year.

#### IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: questions to Treasury ministers and the Prime Minister; debate on the Commonwealth; in the Lords: Education Bill, committee; Health Bill, committee; Security Service Bill, report; Family Law Bill, Committee amendments; Nolan Bill, report.

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# Shadowy Muslim groups suspected of attack aimed at House of Saud

By MICHAEL BINYON  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

## EXTREMISTS

THE real target of the lorry bomb at the King Abdul Aziz air base in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday was the House of Saud, that has ruled the kingdom since it was founded more than 60 years ago.

The explosion, the most deadly terrorist attack in the Arab world since the blowing up of the Marine barracks in Lebanon in 1982, is a

declaration of war by Islamic extremists on America, the Western presence in the Arabian peninsula, above all, on a regime that they consider corrupt, illegitimate, and unfit to hold custody over Mecca and Medina, the two most holy places in Islam.

No one doubts that the tanker lorry bomb at the military base in

Dhahran was the work of one of the militant groups which in recent years have become an increasing threat to the stability of Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer.

The likely perpetrators are two shadowy groups, the Movement for Islamic Change and the Tigers of the Gulf, who claimed responsibility for a similar attack last November. Little is known about their size, strength and member-

ship. But they and other Islamic radicals have one thing in common: hatred for a regime they believe has brought Western decadence to the heartland of Islam.

The Dhahran bomb was not unexpected. After the November bombing of a military training and communications centre in central Riyadh, in which seven people including five Americans were killed, four Islamic militants were arrested. The Saudi Government

said they confessed that they had been inspired by Muhammad al-Masari, the militant Islamic dissident living in London.

But opposition groups insisted such confessions were extracted through torture, and gave a warning of further attacks should the men be executed. They were, nevertheless, publicly beheaded on May 31.

The growing unrest in Saudi Arabia stems from the 1991 Gulf

War. King Fahd's decision to accept a large allied force, mostly American, was seen by conservatives as sacrilege, polluting the holy land with the presence of infidels and engaging non-Muslims to join in a war against fellow Muslims. The sudden influx of Western forces and customs, including the presence of unveiled women, angered the extremists.

The war also prompted political rumblings. Why, it was asked, was

Saudi Arabia spending so much on arms when it could not defend itself unaided? The huge bill, which Riyadh is still paying, also led to a short-term cash crisis, bankrupting many small businesses and provoking criticism not only of the lavish spending of the 4,000-strong Royal Family, but of the dominance of the House of Saud, especially among tribal rivals previously bought off by prosperity.

## America pledges to keep military presence in Gulf

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT  
AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

### AFTERMATH

AMERICA vowed it would not leave the oil-rich Gulf and placed its many personnel there on maximum alert yesterday after a lorry bomb ripped through a Saudi Arabian military complex housing foreigners, killing at least 19 Americans and seriously wounding 64 others. In all, almost 400 people were treated for light injuries.

Tuesday night's no-warning blast was the most deadly attack on a US target in the Middle East since the 1983 suicide bomb against a barracks in Beirut killed 241 marines and drove the American military out of Lebanon. In scenes of devastation eerily reminiscent of that attack, the work of a radical Shia Muslim bomber, Saudi rescue workers equipped with cranes and bulldozers yesterday continued the search for survivors from the eight-storey residential complex on the King Abdul Aziz air base in Khobar, near Dhahran in eastern Saudi Arabia.

Nearby was a crater 35ft deep and 45ft wide left by the blast, which was caused by an estimated five tonnes of explosive loaded on to a 5,000-gallon fuel lorry.

Speaking at the White House yesterday, President Clinton gave an official account of the bombing, explaining that Saudi police were immediately suspicious of a petrol tanker which pulled up outside the security perimeter of the US base.

Mr Clinton said they alerted an American patrol and began warning occupants of nearby buildings. As the patrol approached the vehicle, two men jumped from the cab and fled. Within a couple of minutes, the bomb exploded. No person or group had claimed responsibility.

It can be argued that Americans still do not take sufficiently stringent anti-terrorist precautions, even after the World Trade Centre and Oklahoma City bombings. Concrete barriers and frequent patrols had been installed at the Dhahran base after terrorists drove up in the door of a Saudi military training headquarters in Riyadh in November and exploded a car bomb. Five Americans and two Indians were killed.

But the barriers were only

35 yards from the barracks. The 5,000lb force of Tuesday's explosion sheared off the front of the high-rise building.

William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, claimed on American television yesterday that without the barriers there would have been "many, many more fatalities".

Norman Schwarzkopf, the retired US Army general, commanded the American-led coalition based in Saudi Arabia during the 1991 Gulf War. As rescue workers dug frantically with bare hands in the blistering desert heat yesterday, he told NBC television: "I think it would be a tragic mistake if we were to pull, pitch and run. We have to show them that we are tougher than they are."

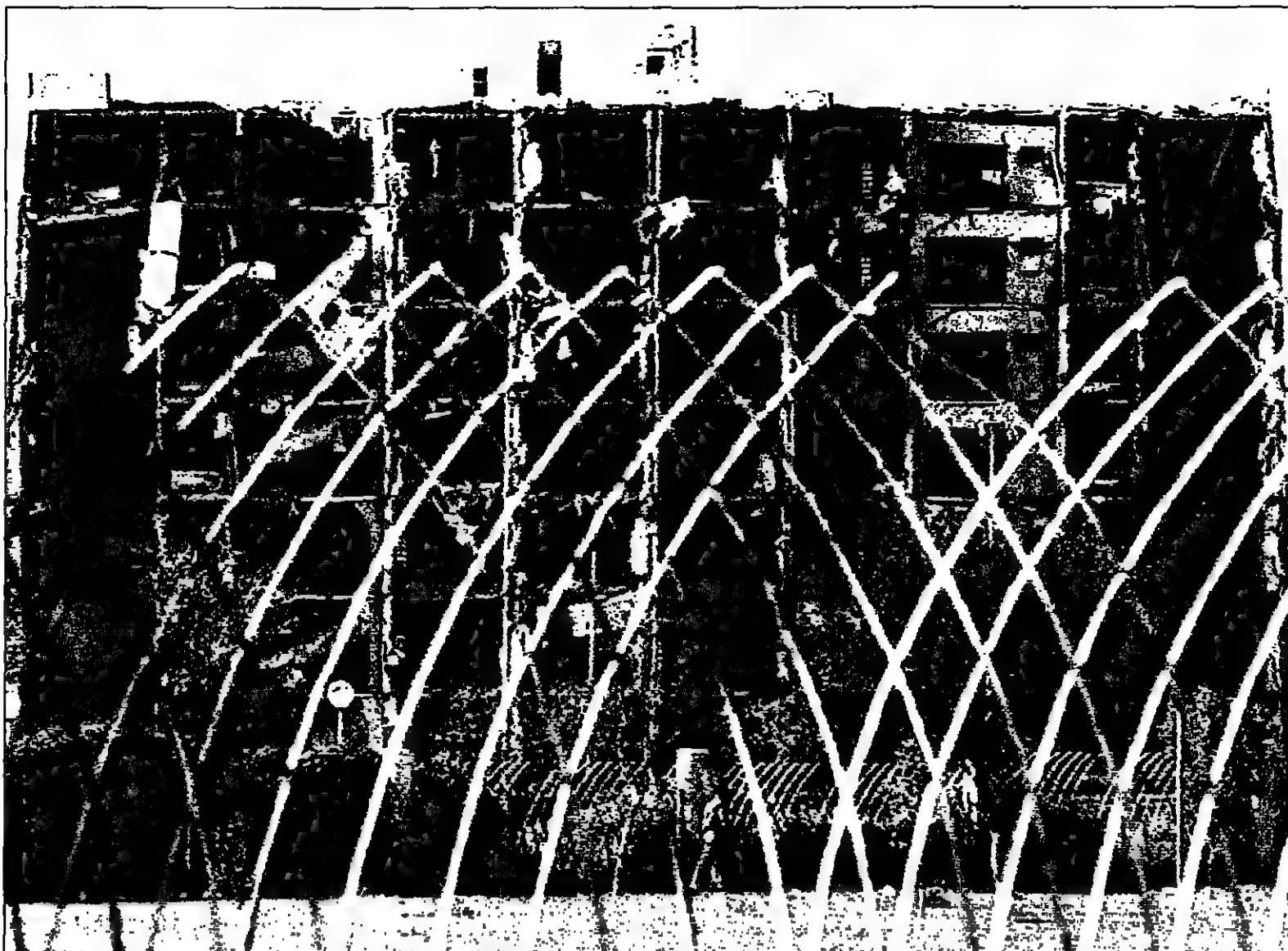
Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, confirmed there were no plans to reduce the American military presence, saying: "It is a fundamental tenet of American foreign policy that our presence in that part of the world helps limit the conflict and the tension that does exist."

After talks in Jerusalem with Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, who later flew to visit survivors, Israel's President Weizman blamed Iran for the attack. Other regional security experts said it was more likely to have been Sunni Muslim Saudi fanatics trained in Afghanistan and known as "The Afghanis".

There are 2,900 Americans at the Dhahran base, including pilots flying in "Operation Southern Watch", the mission to enforce the no-fly zone over southern Iraq. Other US personnel include Patriot anti-missile operators, air ground crews, and communications specialists.

Residents there said military personnel from America, Britain, France and Saudi Arabia occupied 50 buildings on the 400-building complex. Saudi families were living in the rest.

Leading article, page 19



The wreckage of the American-occupied apartment building at the air base in Dhahran which took the force of Tuesday's bomb attack

## Western task force keeps daily watch on Iraq

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

### AIR PATROLS

THE King Abdul Aziz airbase at Dhahran has been the centre of American-led coalition force activities since the end of the 1991 Gulf War.

However, so sensitive is the continuing presence of US, British and French aircraft and military personnel there, five years after the war, that even the usually informative American Defence Department officials are reluctant to give precise numbers.

Nevertheless, since the war ended the three nations have used Dhahran to launch daily "no-fly zone" combat air patrols over southern Iraq, south of the 32nd parallel. Operation Southern Watch is carried out by the Joint Task Force-Southwest Asia based in the Gulf

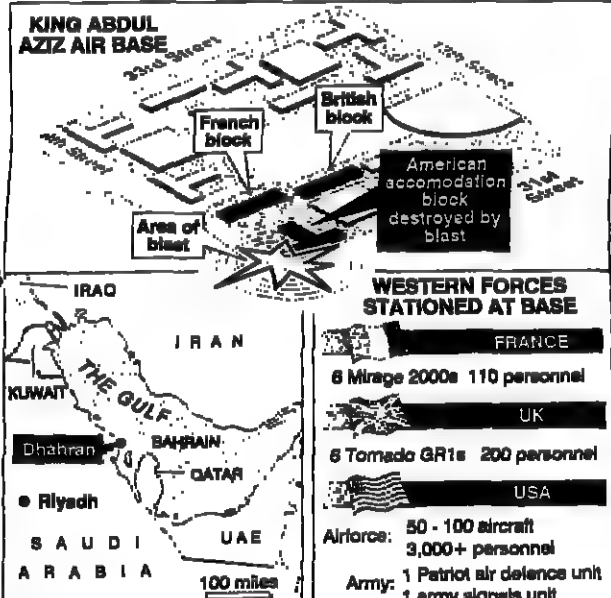
under the direction of US Central Command. The force is commanded by Major-General Kurt Anderson of the US Air Force, stationed at Riyadh. Apart from enforcing the no-fly zone, it is capable of

conducting an air campaign against Iraqi targets if Baghdad needs to be compelled to comply with United Nations inspections.

Although assets are based at different locations in the Arabian Gulf region, all the British and French aircraft are at Dhahran. Britain has six

Tornado GR1 bombers and about 200 RAF personnel at the base. France has six Mirage 2000 and 110 air force personnel. Their servicemen sleep in blocks about 300 yards from the American accommodation building which took the full force of the bomb on Tuesday night. There were

serious concerns last night over the security breach. Western diplomatic sources in Saudi Arabia said the perimeter was normally heavily guarded and yet the terrorists were able to park a lorry bomb within 35 yards of the accommodation compound, known as Khobar Towers.



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## Christopher spurned by Cairo

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER

WARREN CHRISTOPHER, the US Secretary of State, found himself the target of Arab scorn yesterday when he arrived in Cairo having failed to secure any significant concessions from Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister.

A scheduled joint news conference after talks with President Mubarak of Egypt was scrapped without explanation and Cairo's semi-official papers - which faithfully reflect the Egyptian leader's views - launched a broadside against America.

The main daily *al-Ahram* accused Mr Christopher of blindly supporting Mr Netanyahu as he tore away the foundations of five years of Arab-Israeli peace-making. *Isid* at the 1991 peace conference in Madrid: "In the strangest press conference Netanyahu cancels all international agreements... and Christopher supports him," the paper declared in a front-page headline. □ Jerusalem: Mr Netanyahu blamed Syria yesterday for a border attack in the Jordan valley, launched from Jordan, which killed three Israeli soldiers and wounded two others.

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Clinton declares there is no economic security unless industrial world stands up to forces of hatred

# G7 vow to pursue terrorists

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER  
IN LYONS  
AND IAN BRODIE  
IN WASHINGTON

JOHN MAJOR and President Clinton will discuss today international measures to track down the perpetrators of the bombing in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

The Prime Minister will repeat the offer, made immediately after the bombing, for British assistance in the search for those responsible. He is also planning to bring Mr Clinton up to date on the latest developments in the Northern Ireland peace process after the Manchester bombing and to urge him to maintain the tough line he has taken against Sinn Féin.

The two leaders are to hold urgent talks in Lyons this afternoon shortly before the Group of Seven summit of the world's leading industrial nations gets under way.

The Dhahran blast has propelled terrorism up the agenda of the three-day gathering. Mr Major and Mr



A security sniffer dog at the G7 building in Lyons

Clinton are preparing to consider the effectiveness of proposals demanded last year at the G7 summit in Nova Scotia for better co-operation and the measures agreed at the international summit on terrorism at Sharm el Sheikh.

President Clinton, admitting he could think of little else in the wake of the Saudi bombing, said yesterday that he would make the defeat of international terrorism his

priority at the G7 meeting. "My first order of business will be to focus the strength and energy of the G7 on the continuing fight against terrorism," he said in a speech on the White House lawn.

"I will say to my G7 partners what I say to my fellow Americans: we cannot have economic security in a global economy unless we can stand against these forces of terrorism. The United States will lead the way and we expect our allies to walk with us hand in hand. We cannot tolerate this kind of conduct."

He said that the Dhahran attack underscored the struggle of all who believe in tolerance, freedom and security. The world faced a new peril that included rogue states such as Iran and Iraq, drug smugglers, those who deal in weapons of mass destruction and terrorists who strike not just in Saudi Arabia but also in the Tokyo subway, on the streets of London, in Israel and in America's heartland. Usually, he said, the instigators were "in the para-

lysing grip of religious, ethnic and racial hatred."

To meet these threats, he hoped to expand the US initiative launched at last year's G7 summit with a package of 40 recommendations to combat terrorism and organised crime. They include a "no where to hide" extradition agreement and new procedures to deal with forged travel documents and the smuggling of illegal aliens. "Defeating these organised forces of destruction is one of the most important challenges our country faces," he said.

Mr Major condemned the Saudi bombing as an appalling act of pure evil. "I very much hope they find out who did it so that they can be punished," he declared.

However, the bombing is unlikely to prevent a serious clash between Mr Clinton and most of the other leaders over proposed American sanctions that could damage companies doing business with Libya, Iran and Cuba.

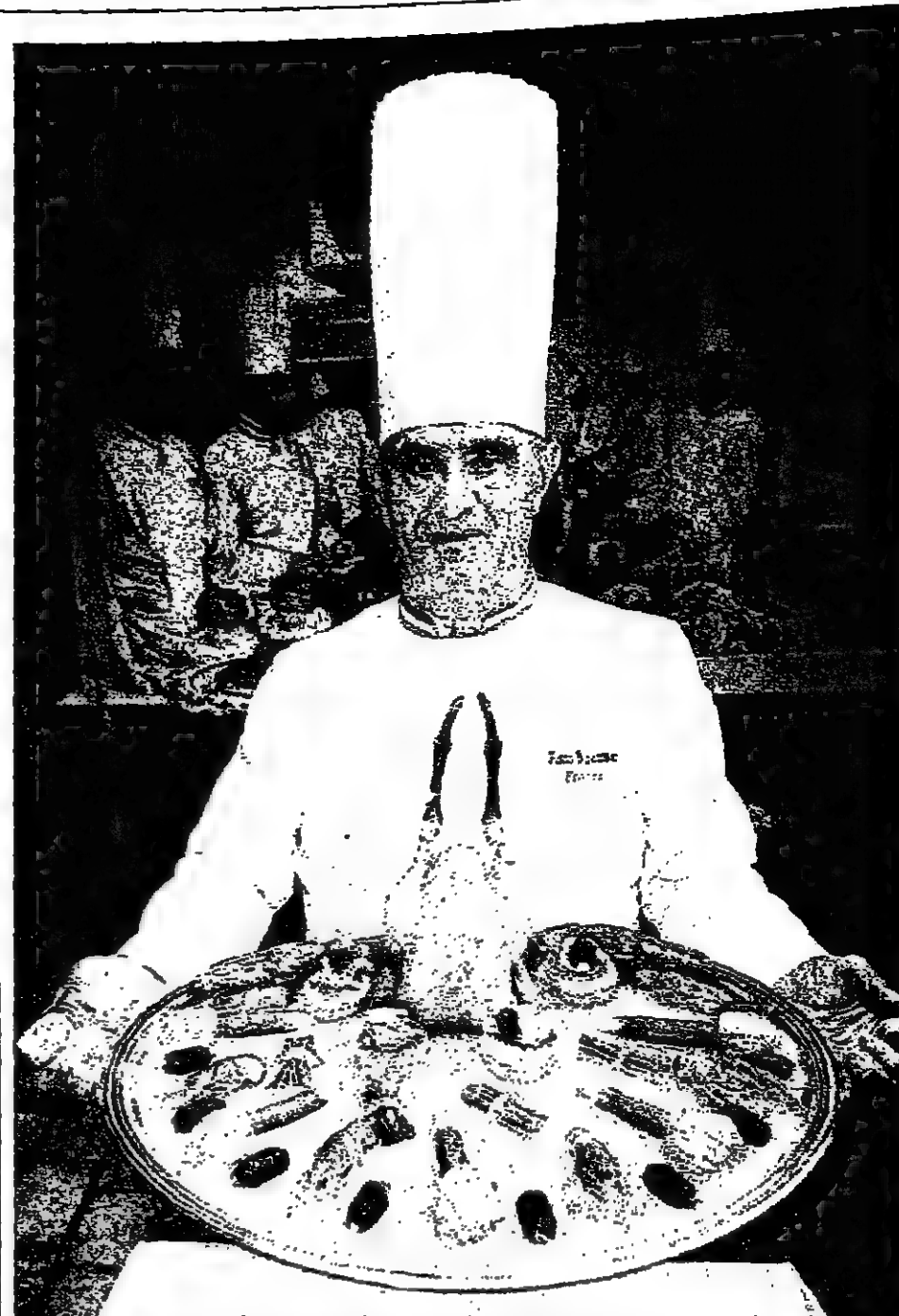
Mr Major will be among those protesting strongly to

Mr Clinton about the "extra-territorial" effect on the proposals for legal action in America against foreign companies and their executives.

The European Union summit in Florence last weekend threatened retaliation against America over the so-called Helms-Burton law which would punish non-US companies doing business with Cuba and similar legislation dealing with Iran and Libya. Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, told Mr Clinton last week it was wrong for America to attack its partners to reach its adversaries.

Although the summit communiqué almost certainly will fudge the sanctions dispute, President Chirac of France, Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and Jean Chrétien, the Canadian Prime Minister, are also determined to raise their objections.

A British diplomat said yesterday: "We are waiting anxiously to learn of the President's intentions over the implementation of this law."



Paul Bocuse at his restaurant outside Lyons with his latest creation, G7 chicken, which combines specialities from the seven countries taking part in the summit

## Chef makes diplomatic entrée

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PAUL BOCUSE, France's most celebrated chef, yesterday unveiled his latest culinary invention as leaders attending the summit of the Group of Seven industrialised nations in Lyons prepared to discuss the global economy.

Mr Bocuse will be preparing *Coq de Bresse Truffe G7 à la française* (French-style truffle-stuffed chicken) at his restaurant at Collonges-sur-Moselle outside Lyons, as the city's chefs try to outdo one another in culinary inventiveness.

The G7 agenda includes discussion of markets, jobs,

the Third World and welfare, while the menu at tonight's six-course "working dinner" for heads of state, which is being produced by four three-star Michelin chefs, features such weighty matters as *Ravioli de légumes de Savoie*, *Quenelles aux écrevisses* and *Volaille de Bresse* washed down with Pouilly Fumé and Maun champagne.

Official, for which Lyons is famous, is notably absent from the summit menus in the light of the "mad cow" crisis, but the city is going out of its way to ensure that whatever the political results, the

hordes of journalists and participants who are attending the three-day summit will not leave hungry.

Since March the local authorities have deployed 12 sanitary inspectors to ensure that local hostilities are meeting the required hygiene standards.

The inspectors found something to complain about in 83 of the 300 establishments checked, including a few isolated cases where British beef was still on offer — precisely the kind of undiplomatic entrée that the city is desperate to avoid.

BY BEN MACINTYRE

PRESIDENT CHIRAC announced yesterday he would press fellow world leaders to increase funding for medical research into epidemics such as "mad cow" disease, Aids and Ebola virus at the Lyons summit of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations.

In an interview published yesterday, the French President said that battling such epidemics should be made a priority, and gave a warning that "other diseases may be waiting in the shadows". He also singled out hepatitis C as a crucial area of medical research. "It is urgent that the major powers are aware of this problem at the highest political levels. The G7 summit gives us an opportunity," Mr Chirac said, adding that research into epidemic viruses and bacteria had been neglected in recent years.

The crisis over "mad cow" disease (BSE) has proved particularly devastating for farmers in France, where beef sales have dropped by up to 40 per cent, according to latest figures. France's largest farm union yesterday condemned the European Union aid plan for beef producers as unsatisfactory and said that extra compensation was needed.

Mr Chirac also criticised America yesterday for failing to give sufficient help to developing countries and confirmed that he would make aid for the Third World a central issue at the summit. "The current trend is for major nations, particularly the US, to pull out. This is unacceptable," Mr Chirac said.

His Foreign Minister, Hervé de Charette, said "the growth of selfishness of rich countries is becoming unbearable". He noted that while France and Japan give the largest amounts in development aid, the proportion of gross domestic product that America donates is dwindling.

Germany and Britain — could act as early as next week if Dr Karadzic has not quit. Sanctions were lifted after November's Dayton peace accords were signed.

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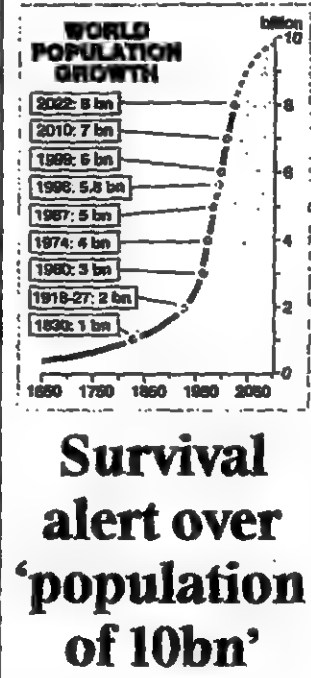
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Food for thought



## Survival alert over 'population of 10bn'

BY EYE-ANN PRENTICE  
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A BALLOONING world population is taking such a heavy toll of the planet's resources that it is putting the survival of humankind in jeopardy, according to an international group of experts.

The number of human beings reached one billion in 1830, three billion by 1960 — and is now at 5.8 billion. Although the growth rate has begun to taper off, the planet is expected to have more than 10 billion people by the middle of the next century.

Economic systems need transforming to prevent rampant poverty, social divisions and environmental catastrophe, according to a three-year study by the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life, a body of politicians, economists, scientists and environmentalists.

The commission's report, *Caring for the Future*, launched in London yesterday, calls on governments to help to stabilise population growth by "massive efforts in health, education and the use of development assistance".

The group also wants a charge on all international financial deals, yielding up to £97 billion a year to pay for projects agreed at recent United Nations conferences on poverty and the environment.

*Caring for the Future*, published by Oxford University Press, £7.99.

## Chirac to push for BSE research cash

BY BEN MACINTYRE

PRESIDENT CHIRAC announced yesterday he would press fellow world leaders to increase funding for medical research into epidemics such as "mad cow" disease, Aids and Ebola virus at the Lyons summit of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations.

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# Voting revolution brings shock upheavals before a ballot is cast



Gould: political scene is already transformed

THERE was a time when the rest of the world looked to New Zealand as the pioneer of egalitarianism and the welfare state. Today New Zealand attracts attention as the test bed for an experiment in aggressive free-market economics.

Observers abroad have been equally intrigued by another imminent change. On October 12, New Zealand — which has hitherto operated a Westminster-style, first past the post, essentially two-party system — will hold a general election under a new system of proportional representation called MMP. It will produce a parliament composed partly of constituency representatives and partly of members elected off national lists.

The economic reforms and the change in the electoral system are linked, but not quite in the way that the casual observer might suppose.

The decision to go for proportional representation was not a confirmation of the impulse to radical change but a reaction against it.

The explanation for this is simple. What are now called the "New Right" reforms were initially driven through by a Labour Government which — from 1984 to 1990 — surprised most of its supporters with the speed and zeal of its abandonment of traditional Labour policy. When disgruntled voters decided they had had enough, and turned in 1990 to the only real alternative available under a two-party system, they discovered that they had jumped from the frying pan into the fire. The incoming National (Conservative) Government was even more committed than its Labour predecessors to the New Right reforms. The voters' confusion and unease at this sequence of events was compounded by

**As the British Labour Party proposes constitutional reform, Bryan Gould, a former Shadow Cabinet member, gives a warning of the unintended consequences it has brought to New Zealand**

the realisation that the New Zealand constitution — largely unwritten, unicameral, and lacking in any of the usual checks and balances — offered them no protection against being hijacked by a small band of committed ideologues who could push through far-reaching "reforms" without having to bother too much with consensus-building.

Hence the appeal of being able to throw sand in the works. Offered the chance of electoral reform, the electorate voted for the chance to slow down the pace of change. MMP is one of the more bizarre options among PR

possibilities. Its arcane complexities are only dimly understood by most voters, but they have at least grasped that it will make life more difficult for the politicians.

Their expectations in this respect have already been met. Four months from the election, the political and parliamentary scene have already been transformed. The tactical manoeuvrings dictated by MMP have produced defections from the governing party that have meant coalition government is already the order of the day.

Neither main party has shown much capacity to adapt

to the new situation. National, the governing party, is unlikely to win an outright majority and has been engaged in a bungled effort to find a post-election coalition partner. It has encouraged those of its supporters who are unlikely to detach themselves and form separate parties. None of these barely legitimate offspring shows any sign of enough voter appeal to overcome the 5 per cent threshold that bars the way to list representation.

Labour has done even worse. Still struggling with the legacy of its surprising record in office and having suffered an earlier left-wing defection, Labour does not even have the comfort of waiting for government unpopularity to push the electoral pendulum in its direction. When the pendulum swings, it is likely to swing towards one of the newer parties.

The best-placed of these at present is New Zealand First — a party which has hitherto been regarded as merely a vehicle for the personal ambitions of former National Cabinet Minister, Winston Peters. He has projected his party to a second place rating in the polls.

The prospect of a Peters-dominated government has made many people very nervous. He has campaigned on a strongly nationalist platform, making it clear that he is hostile to the inflow of overseas investment and to those, largely Asian, immigrants who bring it with them. Perhaps the only certainty is that the post-election situation will be uncertain, possibly unstable. New Zealand watchers may be in for a bumpy ride.

□ The author is Vice-Chancellor of Waikato University.

Leading article, page 19



Peters: hostile to foreign investors

## Clinton aide quits as inquiry begins into files scandal

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

NATIONALLY televised hearings into the "Filegate" scandal opened dramatically on Capitol Hill yesterday when the White House official most responsible announced his immediate resignation.

Craig Livingstone, the 37-year-old director of the Office of Personnel Security, said he accepted full responsibility for the ordering of FBI background files on hundreds of Republican officials. However, he insisted it was an "entirely innocent mistake" caused by using an out-of-date list to check people with White House access, and vehemently denied he had been digging for dirt on political foes.

Mr Livingstone, near tears, also complained bitterly at the way the media had made him an "object of ridicule" by portraying him as a beefy bouncer-turned-political henchman when he had been merely seeking to serve his country. He becomes at least the fourth member of the Clinton White House to leave under an ethical cloud.

The start of the highly charged hearings were remarkable for the way past and present White House officials strove to present themselves as competent, the alternative being to admit that they had obtained the files for nefarious purposes.

Bernard Nussbaum, the former

White House counsel, William Kennedy, the former associate counsel, and Mr Livingstone all offered profuse apologies to the victims of what Louis Freeh, the FBI director, has labelled "egregious violations of privacy", but all three stood by President Clinton's description of the whole affair as a "bureaucratic snafu". A fourth witness, Anthony Marceca, who was Mr Livingstone's assistant, admitted before the hearings began that he had obtained 300 more files than the 400 already known of, including those of Brent Scowcroft and Robert Gates, President Bush's National Security Adviser and CIA director, respectively. Mr Marceca's goal was to show he was merely engaged in an indiscriminate bureaucratic process and not targeting particular Republicans.

But William Clinger, the committee's Republican chairman, cast the affair in a much more sinister light, suggesting Mr Livingstone had been doing the dirty work of someone at the top of the White House.

He demanded to know why Mr Livingstone — "a political operative with a dubious background" — had been given such a sensitive post, who employed him, and how he had escaped dismissal despite obvious instances of misman-

agement. "Who is Mr Livingstone's patron?", Mr Clinger asked.

He noted that Mr Livingstone worked on Mr Clinton's inauguration with Harry Thomason, a Hollywood friend of the First Couple. Afterwards Mr Thomason began pressing the Clintons to dismiss the seven-man White House Travel Office so he could take over its business. The office staff were dismissed, allegedly on Hillary Clinton's orders, and seven months later Mr Livingstone obtained the FBI file on Billy Dale, its director, in what Republicans believe was a highly improper retrospective attempt to justify his removal.

An FBI official who worked at the White House just before the dismissals has told congressional investigators that officials pumped him for confidential background information on Mr Dale, and Mr Clinger produced other documents showing "the White House was engaged in an effort to provide as much damaging information [as possible] about Billy Dale and his colleagues".

Despite the files issue and other scandals besetting the White House, Mr Clinton continues to maintain a 20-point lead over Bob Dole, a New York Times poll showed yesterday.



A witch doctor casts her vote outside Durban yesterday during local government elections in KwaZulu/Natal

## Inkatha brings violence to ballot box

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN LINDELANI, NEAR DURBAN

IN A KwaZulu/Natal rural township not known for its political tolerance in recent years, the choice of headwear was tempting fate. As the young man approached the polling booth to cast his vote in yesterday's local government elections, supporters of the Inkatha Freedom Party, incensed by his African National Congress baseball cap, set upon him.

"Within moments the two sides of rival supporters were exchanging abuse and stones and only the timely interven-

tion of peace monitors prevented a man from being shot by an Inkatha supporter wielding a pistol. Fearful for their safety police whisked the ANC supporters from the scene in armoured vehicles.

Perched on a hillside peppered with palm trees and encircled by sugar cane, the tented polling station was set amid cement houses of Lindelani, a dusty township 40 miles along the north coast from Durban, which in recent years has come to resemble countless other trouble spots

in a province fought over since the mid-1980s by supporters of Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, Inkatha's and the ANC.

"What happened here today goes to prove that despite what their leaders may say, Inkatha is not committed to peace," claimed Thulani Gumede, the ANC candidate.

The ugly standoff and rhetoric in Lindelani appeared to fly in the face of recent upbeat talk in KwaZulu/Natal about the shift towards greater tolerance and peace before the twice-delayed poll.

Yet violence and killings have persisted in several areas in the run-up to polling day — 13 election candidates have been killed. Mary de Haas, an academic and violence monitor, said that under such circumstances it was unrealistic to expect these elections, especially in rural areas, to reflect the real will of the voters. "Anyone who has any contact on the ground knows that the situation has not really changed."

William Rees-Mogg, page 15

## WORLD SUMMARY

### Greece buries an icon

Athens: Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Socialist party leader and working class icon, was buried yesterday as his heirs prepared for a Homeric tussle for his larger-than-life mantle (John Carr writes).

Tens of thousands of mourners followed the bier as it left the main Athens Orthodox Cathedral. Ironically, the coffin of the man who spent most of his political career fighting the military establishment, was borne to its grave strapped to a gun carriage. Four ships full of mourners sailed overnight from Crete, a socialist bastion.

### Kabul barrage kills 60 civilians

Islamic militants of the Taliban militia poured more than 300 rockets and shells into Kabul, killing 60 civilians and injuring more than 100, in one of the worst assaults in their year-long siege of the Afghan capital (Michael Dynes writes). The barrage coincided with the return to the city of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who resumed his office as Prime Minister 30 months after his abortive attempt to seize power from President Rabbani.

### Last Yiddish daily to close

Paris: *Unzer Wort* ("Our Word"), the world's last Yiddish daily newspaper, will close at the end of this month (Ben Macintyre writes). The newspaper, published in Paris since the end of the Second World War, was killed by rising costs and competition from larger French-language rivals. Several Yiddish periodicals still survive and a weekly newspaper is published in the United States.

### Diana Ross's brother killed

New York: The decomposing bodies of Arthur "T. Boy" Ross, 47, the brother of the singer Diana Ross, and an unidentified woman were found in a dilapidated suburban house in Detroit with three starving pit bull terriers (Tom Rhodes writes). The couple had been suffocated and police are seeking two people who had rented the house.

## Hong Kong apology for jailing child

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

IN A rare admission of serious error, the Hong Kong Government will today apologise for the 12-day imprisonment of a five-year-old Vietnamese refugee girl during a breakout from a detention camp. It will also recommend that at least two prison officers be punished for lying to their superiors about keeping the child separated from her parents.

Acting in part on information supplied by *The Times*, Chris Patten, the colony's Governor, ordered an investigation leading to today's report. The plight of the children forms part of the drama of the remaining 17,000 boat people in Hong Kong's detention camps, most of whom are refusing voluntary repatriation to Vietnam and are highly unpopular in the colony.

The girl, who was born in one of the camps and is named Hong Kong, was among a dozen children separated from their parents during the breakout from the Whitehead Camp on May 10. Brian Bresnihan, the senior Security Branch officer in charge of the Vietnamese refugees, told *The*

*Times* two weeks ago: "We are concerned about the time taken to reunite the two children and regret the anguish we have caused."

"The Correctional Services Division [who staff the detention camps] admit they are fully responsible."

It has now emerged that some division officers, who had been repeatedly told by

Hong Kong's parents that she was missing, knew that she had been taken to a prison when she was found wandering outside the camp during the breakout. These officers lied to their superiors, who then wrote a report for Mr Bresnihan.

The parents contacted Pam Baker, a British lawyer in Hong Kong who wrote to Mr Bresnihan. He was also given a letter written by Hong Kong's father to Amnesty International, saying he had appealed in vain to the guards to find his daughter.

Mr Bresnihan said yesterday the officers' punishment had not yet been decided.

Wall of steel, page 18

## Eta threat to Tour cyclists

Madrid: The Basque terrorist group Eta yesterday threatened attacks against competitors in this year's Tour de France if the organisers do not "recognise the identity of the Basques as a nation" before the race begins on Saturday (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

The threat, which came a day after Spain's parliamentary political parties unanimously rejected an Eta offer of a week-long truce, was made in a letter to the Tour's director in Paris, Jean Marie Leblanc. Hundreds of posters have also appeared on streets in Pamplona, stating that the Tour was not welcome in "Euskal Herria", the national name for the Basque country.

## US boss sacked over sex and fraud claims

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN WESTBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

ASTRA AB, the Swedish drug company, sacked its American chief executive yesterday after allegations that he embezzled \$2 million (£1.3 million), pressured female workers into having sex and fostered a corporate culture of hard partying.

Astra also dismissed a second executive, and two others resigned. The company said it was co-operating with government agencies investigating the charges.

"Today's action brings to an end an unfortunate and distasteful chapter in the history of Astra USA," said C. J. Johansson, executive vice-president of the Swedish parent

company. Lars Bildman, who was suspended in April as president and chief executive of Astra USA, was sacked without any financial compensation, the company said.

Mr Johansson said Mr Bildman went to great lengths to keep his behaviour secret, renting off-site office space to keep information from the parent company.

Three female former employees are taking legal action against the company, saying Mr Bildman fondled them or pressured them for sex. In May, *Business Week* magazine reported on a corporate culture of hard partying, allegedly fostered by Mr Bildman.

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Why the elderly do best in their own house

## Home sweet home

THE IDEA that a judge could be loved by the general public would surprise old-fashioned lawyers and their clients, but Lord Denning, the former Master of the Rolls, has a special place in the country's affections.

Lord Denning is 97 and, as he proudly adds, a third. At the end of life, as in the nursery, every month counts and is recorded. Despite his age Lord Denning talks as fluently as ever about his long life: his childhood, schooling, the army on the Western Front in the First World War, and the law. He still remembers, and describes with remarkable clarity, his visits to his mother's home in Lincoln. For although he was brought up in Wessex, and still speaking with a Wessex burr, it was his mother who, hardened by east-coast winds, was the dominant force in his early family life.

Lord Denning is becoming physically frail but is still independent. He is able to walk for a few steps in the garden each day with the help of a stick in one hand, and his other arm held by a helper. The former judge's life centres on his house, where he claims to have the best private law library in the country. At home he enjoys entertaining his friends and family in his drawing-room, and still insists on going upstairs to bed. Unfortunately all three rooms — his library, his sitting-room and his bedroom — around which his days revolve are on different levels, and separate flights of stairs have to be negotiated to go from one to the other.

For a man who was a Royal Engineer and had built bridges and tunnelled in dark trenches on the battlefield during the final advance in France after August 1918, the problem of the stairs didn't seem insurmountable. Lord Denning decided that if he



MEDICAL BRIEFING  
Dr Thomas Stuttford

was to stay at home he would have to invest in stair lifts, and his house now has three which transport him in safety from his books to his friends or to bed.

Fractures from accidents in the home are a constant threat to older people, and their seriousness is underrated. No part of the house is more dangerous than its stairs and steps: the installation of the lift reduces this danger. The statistics of falls are frightening. Usually it is the hip which breaks, and between 12 and 20 per cent of these patients die within a year; the greater the age the greater the mortality. But many of those

who survive both the fall and surgery are thereafter unable to live without nursing help.

The Dennings are a long-lived family. One brother was killed 80 years ago this month on the Somme while serving in the Lincolnshire regiment, and another was killed in the Navy; but of those who survived the war, one became a general who lived to be 95 and the other, an admiral, died when he was nearly 80.

There are many similar families, and people, who have every hope of punishing their pension funds, and being happy and fulfilled, if only they can find the right place to spend their old age.

The increasing cost of living in old people's homes, which under the new regulations can devour a lifetime's savings as well as the cash from the sale of the family house in a year or two, makes modification of an existing house so that it may be accommodated a financial as well as medical priority. Living at home, with friends and family visiting, books to read and a garden to admire, will keep Alzheimer's at bay by providing the necessary intellectual stimulation.

## X-ray workers and their offspring



RADIOLOGISTS, radiographers and others working in X-ray departments take great precautions to avoid unnecessary exposure to radiation. Everyone in contact with X-rays wears protective clothing and shelters behind screens during the taking of the film.

It has been feared for at least 40 years that the possible danger of radiation might not only affect those who work with X-rays — Madame Curie was one of the early casualties — but also their children.

Research workers have recently investigated the health of the children of more than 6,500 radiographers and have published their survey in the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*.

The results of the research are reassuring. The children of radiographers seem to be no more likely than those born to comparable groups to suffer from congenital malformation, from leukaemia or from other childhood malignancies. The absence of any correlation between radiography and childhood disease applied equally well whether the radiographers were working full or part-time.

## New treatment for a taboo problem



ANAL fissures are rarely, if ever, discussed in the health pages of magazines or newspapers, yet they are frequently a reason why patients visit their doctors. These acutely painful anal tears or ulcers bleed and cause the muscles of the sphincter to go into spasm, which increases the discomfort and prevents its healing.

As a first line of treatment the patient is given mild laxatives such as Fybogel and bland suppositories. Local anaesthetics were once commonly prescribed but these can result in rashes and other problems of sensitivity. Previously if the fissure became chronic, surgery was recommended. The surgeon cut a few muscle fibres in the sphincter so that spasm was prevented and the tear could heal.

The *British Journal of Surgery* has recently reported an alternative treatment. Instead of cutting the muscle fibres, the patient is prescribed an ointment containing glyceryl trinitrate, usually used to control angina. This relaxes the muscle and the fissure heals. The trial was a small one but the results were considered good enough to warrant more extensive research.

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Jackie Jack today and, below, in her Sixties modelling heyday: "Life's too short to be angry. I have a wonderful family and millions of friends"

## United in the war on cancer

A Sixties model is one of a group refusing to give in to myeloma. Jeremy Laurance reports

She has appeared on catwalks across the world but today Jackie Jack is on a different stage. She is not pouring at the camera, sashaying down the street or swinging thigh-high boots across the arm of a sofa. She is describing what it is like to confront her own mortality.

Jackie has myeloma, a rare cancer of the bone marrow, and so does her audience — 300 fellow sufferers and their spouses meeting for the first time at the Royal College of Physicians. There is a unique bond, a compulsive appetite for information that might help in their battle for life.

As a fashion model in the 1960s, Jackie — née Bowyer — was equally dazzled by the flashy glamour of East End hoodlums and the opulent style of West End aristocrats. She drank cocktails in New York with the Queen Mother and waterskied in St Tropez with the Great Train Robbers. Her husband, Peter Scott — the second of four — was a cat burglar who earlier this year published his autobiography, *Gentleman Thief*.

"Modelling was a different sort of business in those days. There was a pub in Belgravia called The Star. You'd see the Burtons in there. Richard Harris, an inspector from Scotland Yard in one corner, a burglar and a model in another."

Jackie, whose looks were once compared to those of the Italian filmstar Claudia Cardinale, was Vidal Sassoon's house model and did long seasons at Harrods. When her career wound down in the 1970s she had a baby — the first of three — and devoted herself to her family. Then, in 1993, myeloma struck.

Myeloma is a fatal cancer. There is no cure. It affects more than 3,000 people in the UK each year. Some die quickly while others survive for many years. But every sufferer knows the toll.

It is how sufferers cope with this knowledge, and with the disease, that differs. For this event, Jackie has

agreed to be interviewed in front of the audience by Professor Anthony Clare, giving a live performance of the BBC Radio 4 programme *In the Psychiatrist's Chair*.

How had she felt when she learnt she had cancer? "I am a very positive person. There are many things in life you can't change — you can only help them. You have to take things as they come."

But the diagnosis must have come as a shock? "No, it was a relief. I had 24 fractures in two years. Every time I coughed or sneezed I would break another rib. I was fed up dragging myself round private specialists. I thought, oh well, at least I've got something."

Was she angry? "Life's too short. I have a wonderful husband and a family and millions of friends. There is no point in not making the most of it."

Her turbulent life has given her the emotional strength to deal with this crisis. "Yellowing newspaper cuttings from the 1960s reveal a woman who played fast and loose. On one occasion she was prosecuted for obstructing police officers chasing her errant husband by clinging to a door. 'I've had a lot of hassle and upset, but if I have a problem on Monday, by Wednesday I am looking for the next one.'"

It is a bravura performance delivered with zest and good humour. But as Dr Clare invites comments from the floor, the atmosphere is subdued, as if no one can quite match Jackie's feisty attitude.

"We were surprised by the lack of criticism," says Dr Ray Powles, in charge of the myeloma unit at the Royal Marsden hospital, London, and organiser of the conference. "Perhaps people felt they wanted to be positive because this is the first time such an event has been held outside the United States. The idea is to help sufferers and their families to become more actively involved in the decisions that are taken about their treatment and care."



Members of the International Myeloma Foundation flew over from America to help the Royal Marsden to organise the event. Susi Novis, its president, whose husband Brian was co-founder of the foundation before his death from myeloma aged 33, says: "When my husband was diagnosed we knew nothing about the disease. We thought, what the hell is it and what do we do about it? Then, later, we thought, wouldn't it be a great idea for patients to meet with the professionals to discuss it?"

The foundation has now held six seminars throughout the US. Such has been the enthusiasm for the idea that a dozen American sufferers flew here

to share the British experience. Ms Novis says: "You can see that you are not alone. The way to feel better as a patient is to find out about the disease so you can make choices. But everybody's agenda — what they want out of life — is different."

Encouraging news that a cure may be in sight comes from Dr Powles. Until ten years ago, no one with myeloma went into remission. Now half of all patients at the Marsden do. "In all the blood cancers the starting point for a cure was getting patients into remission. Then you can start to devise strategies. We are where we were with leukaemia in the 1970s, and we would expect a cure to follow."

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# Closing ranks on Eton's outcast

Was Anthony Chenevix-Trench fired as Head Master because he indulged in the cane and the bottle? Marcus Scriven reports

The epitaph, belated, ugly and unexpected, appeared two years ago. It was then, in an authorised history of Eton, that its Vice Provost, Tim Card, disclosed that the late Anthony Chenevix-Trench had not resigned as the school's Head Master — as had been claimed at the time — but had been forced out.

Eton's Fellows, Card explained, had come to believe that Chenevix-Trench was irremediably flawed by a predilection for the cane — made harder to mask by his liking for the bottle. "He regarded corporal punishment not as the last resort but almost as the first," wrote Card, who recorded that he had once been heard to remark: "A good thing the NSPCC does not know about this."

His presence at the school threatened scandal. So he had to go. His former pupils — from Eton, Shrewsbury, Bradford and Fettes — were divided. David Tredinnick, an Old Etonian, now Tory MP for Bosworth, said his Head Master had been "on the side of the angels". Paul Foot, who had known him at Shrewsbury, called him an "absolutely revolting and poisonous man, a sadist and a pervert".

Now Mark Peel, a master at Fettes, has written a biography of Chenevix-Trench in which he emerges as a complex figure: an exceptional pedagogue who detested wasted talent; a diverting conversationalist, superb in interview, who nevertheless lacked self-confidence, and desperately needed to be liked; an essentially conservative man who infuriated Old Etonian elements by minor reforms.

Born in 1919, Chenevix-Trench was reading Herodotus at six; ten years later, he won a scholarship from Shrewsbury to Christ Church, Oxford, where he was an accomplished runner and boxer, and at Oxford, where he

rowed for his college, the young man made light of the fact that he was only 5ft 4in tall. He joined the Royal Artillery and after the fall of Singapore spent three years as a POW, six months on the Burma Road, sustaining himself by translating a *Shropshire Lad* into Latin.

Those who met him on his return to Oxford found him a highly sociable, effervescent man, able to survive on very little sleep. He took an outstanding First, before returning to teach at Shrewsbury. He proved an inspirational master: theatrical and innovative — sometimes beginning a sixth-form lesson with Swinburn or Housman, "before branching out into Ovid, Trucydes or Homer, quoting reams of their lines verbatim" — lucid and patient, and always demanding complete commitment from those in his charge.

Christ Church was ecstatic when it lured him back in 1951, boasting: "We have secured as our new permanent Mods don, in succession to his old tutor Mr Page, the one man we thought of as a worthy successor."

But within a year, frustrated that he could not shape his undergraduates' destiny in the way that he could a sixth former's, he returned to Shrewsbury as a housemaster, declining an invitation to be Headmaster of Charterhouse. By 1955, he had been appointed Headmaster of Bradford. Eight years later, it was announced that he would succeed Robert Birley at Eton.

Expectations were immense. Trench had by then become renowned beyond the public school and Oxbridge world: Anthony Sampson made special mention of him while discussing headmasters in his *Anatomy of Britain*; and he was the only one to be appointed to the Robbins committee on higher education. Vincent Mulchrone wrote in the *Daily Mail*, in 1963: "I



Happier days: Anthony Chenevix-Trench with his wife Elizabeth and their two children in 1958, left; and in his study as the newly installed Head Master of Eton in 1964

believe I have met a prophet, a practical, pragmatic teacher, who has it in his heart to inspire and transform our society through our children."

Yet disaster followed. At Bradford, Chenevix-Trench had always set great store on knowing every boy in the school. At Eton (with 1,200 pupils) this was not only impossible, it was also resented by the housemasters who enjoyed great autonomy.

In these circumstances, his insecurity, his need to be liked, was disastrous. On occasions, he promised the same job to two or more masters; he wavered too long over decisions, and, having made them, failed to seek out sufficient support to ensure their implementation.

According to Mark Peel, the defining moment of his time at Eton came in December 1965 when he failed to convince

masters that the school should abandon the tail coat, despite having assured the sixth form that its disappearance was imminent. "I want brilliant young men from the East End," he had said of his intention to do away with the Eton caste. "How can I expect them to wear a tail coat?"

The incident seems to have wounded him deeply, if only because it impressed upon him that he was an outsider — the first Head Master who had been neither pupil nor teacher at the school.

One OE of the time recalls: "He wasn't, dare I say it, what I'd call a natural Etonian Head Master. He didn't have that easy manner which... is the distinguishing mark of the Old Etonian."

Perhaps for the first time, his diminutive stature gave

him pause for thought. On more than one occasion, he was mistaken for the butler. His nickname, Chummy, was more likely to be overlaid with mild contempt than affection. "The spectrum of Etonians is wider than I had expected," he once said. "The best are beyond praise. The worst are more bloody than one could possibly imagine."

His other reforms were better judged than his attempt to do away with the tail coat: subjects like English and geography were encouraged; boys were obliged to attend one service in chapel rather than two; a form of social service was introduced, with Etonians visiting the elderly or teaching immigrant children.

Inevitably, though, while these developments appeared intolerable to the old guard, they were inconsequential to Etonians growing up in the

Sixties. One recalls: "Everything was being questioned. We all wanted to grow our hair, we all wanted to smoke dope, to listen to the Rolling Stones playing in Hyde Park. He was on shifting ground but he had to hold the line."

In the end, it was unwillingness in one house, leading to the expulsion of three boys, which proved Chenevix-Trench's undoing. Rather than remove the housemaster, he offered Eton's Provost, Lord Caccia, his own resignation. Caccia brushed it aside. When trouble flared in the house again, he sacked the housemaster. Walls were emblazoned with slogans demanding that Chenevix-Trench go.

It was characteristically maladroit management and, taken with the rumours about his propensity to beat his pupils, as well as incidents when he had apparently been

the worse for drink, it was enough to persuade the Fellows that he had lost his grip. In 1969, a letter to parents announced his "retirement".

Just how much Chenevix-Trench's taste for corporal punishment counted against him may never be known. According to Peel, there will certainly never be any agreement about what inspired it. "There are those who thought that it was simply what happened at the time: there are those who thought that he enjoyed it but so what? And there were those who thought there was something more sinister in it." Peel's own conclusion is that there was "legitimate criticism: he would mix justice with enthusiasm".

It does not, however, eclipse his admiration for a man who, whatever his faults, believed

ferently in the capacity for good in all those whom he taught, and who so often helped them to release it.

Chenevix-Trench died, aged only 60, at Fettes a few weeks before he was due to retire. His abrupt departure from Eton had tainted his name with failure. But his career is more fairly judged by his many unheralded successes, when, in Peel's words, he found "the illusive spark which enabled each individual to find his special work".

Among the many former pupils at his funeral was David McAree, who flew back for it from the Far East. McAree's First at Oxford must have given Chenevix-Trench special satisfaction: it was only at his insistence that the boy had been accepted for Fettes, after another school expelled him.

© The Land of Lost Content by Mark Peel, Penland Press, £16.99

## THE SUNDAY TIMES NO WORRIES



Paul Hogan hasn't looked back since *Crocodile Dundee*. He hasn't looked forward either... Bryan Appleyard meets Hogues in Hollywood: at ease with life, image and career, as his new film *Flipper* prepares for UK release in August

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## Magnus Linklater on Blair's retreat from Scottish devolution

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## FLAWED REFORM

Difficult constitutional questions have not found clear answers

Constitutional Reform can seem like politics at its driest; in reality it is about power at its rawest. John Major and Jack Straw outlined rival constitutional visions last night, dressed up in appropriate historical and legal finery. But both are engaged in an auction for votes not an academic debate.

There is nothing new in this. The struggles over the Reform Bills in the 19th century were also battles of manoeuvre in which principle was often conscripted to party advantage. What is new, as the Prime Minister pointed out, is the scale of change currently proposed by Labour.

Mr Major hopes that an electorate that has had to face rapid economic change will be uneasy with dramatic upheaval elsewhere. He wants to rally anxious Conservative voters with his message that Labour will embark on large, potentially irreversible, changes to the nation's institutions. But, whatever political benefit the Prime Minister discerns, he is also right to alert citizens to what may be done in their name, if not in their interests.

As Labour's economic ambitions have been tempered to take account of reality, so its energy has been transferred to constitutional activism. Mr Straw's speech last night was addressed to Charter 88, the pressure group for a continental-style constitution which has taken a powerful position on the commanding heights of Labour policy-making. Labour is now committed to a tax-raising Scottish Parliament elected by proportional representation, a Welsh Assembly, a Bill of Rights, an appointed second chamber and a referendum on voting systems for the Commons. There are cases for each of these changes; the overall programme, however, creates a profound alteration in the structure of the nation.

Labour leaders hope that the public distaste that they detect for all current politics may translate into enthusiasm for their future reforms. So far there is little evidence of widespread popular agitation on the scale of the Chartists or the suffragettes. Perhaps that is because it is doubtful whether an electorate with a low view of politicians thinks the solution is legislation to create even more of them.

There is a sense in Scotland, and to an

extent in Wales, that greater autonomy should be granted. Labour argues that if Scotland and Wales are denied assemblies then discontent with Westminster's remoteness will fester into support for separatism. It is certainly the case that a lack of sensitivity to Scotland's distinct political culture has, in the past, placed strain on the Union.

But an even greater strain could be placed on the integrity of the nation by the establishment of separate parliaments in Cardiff and Edinburgh. Mr Blair's reluctance to see a Scottish parliament use its tax-raising powers and his apparent support for a referendum indicate an awareness on his part of how dangerous devolution could be.

The creation of a new tranche of professional politicians in competition with Westminster and with a direct line to Brussels would be likely to institutionalise instability. Regionalism has been encouraged across Europe by federalists in order to wrest authority from national parliaments. The Commons may be an imperfect guardian of the nation's liberties; but its capacity to defend them would be undermined from within by the establishment of rival legislatures.

The Prime Minister accepted that there was room for improvement in the operation of the House of Commons even as he defended it in his speech last night. He argued persuasively that it was healthier for the nation to have its arguments conducted openly in an institution "ancient and yet alive" rather than have matters "settled in smoke-filled rooms". But he also conceded that the House, potent as "the theatre for the great convulsions of political history", was not as effective as it could be in scrutinising legislation. His proposals to move the Queen's Speech to allow more time for consultation and consideration of new laws should lead to better government.

It is to be hoped that the changes outlined are in place before any future Labour government is elected. The attention they have already received have made Labour's constitutional reforms look a little threadbare. Proper scrutiny in Parliament might see them unravel. As they stand Labour's plans still constitute a flawed answer to difficult and all-important questions.

## THE COMMON ENEMY

There can be no frontiers to the fight against terrorism

The blast that ripped the King Abdul Aziz airbase in Saudi Arabia, killing 19 Americans and injuring another 389 people, was no amateur operation. Its force, equivalent to 5,000 pounds of TNT, blew out the building's facade and left a crater 35 feet deep. Trouble was expected. In April, four Saudis publicly confessed to planting last November's bomb at a US-run military training centre in Riyadh. Before they were executed last month, the US Embassy received threats of retaliation. Precautions had been taken. The fact remains that the bombers got through. Their capacity to do so suggests that they may be equipped and organised for further attacks.

Bill Clinton now plans to make the fight against terrorism his top priority at this week's Western summit in Lyons. As a politician's response, that is natural enough; and all Western governments, including Britain's, should review their hospitality to those who incite Middle Eastern Islamists to terrorist acts from the safety of their shores. No step should be neglected that makes the Middle East safer. But Lyons is not where America needs to concentrate its efforts.

The main need is to coordinate a more effective regional response to Islamist extremism. The bombing has been as firmly condemned by Syria's President, Hafez Assad, and by Yasser Arafat as by America's traditional allies in the Middle East. They must be assumed to be sincere; instability in Saudi Arabia unsettles the entire region, to the profit only of Iraq and Iran. This atrocity should therefore assist the American drive.

begun this spring in response to attacks on Israelis by Hamas, to convince Arab governments and security forces that terrorism is their common enemy. But for Saudi Arabia itself, this grave new challenge comes at a particularly delicate moment.

In January, the ailing King Fahd handed over the reins to Crown Prince Abdullah, only to take them back six weeks later. Mentally as well as physically, his health is believed to have deteriorated greatly since then; he is barely seen. Unaccustomed uncertainty erodes the basis of consent by which, for all the constraints on personal freedoms and the severity with which Sharia is interpreted, the House of Saud rules.

The kingdom is redressing its public finances, but at a social cost. Unemployment and falling living standards have sharpened resentment at the unjust privileges of princes who benefit more than generously from the civil list. Reform, in this profoundly conservative society, requires an undisputed fount of authority. Prince Abdullah is an utter traditionalist; but as a "good" Muslim he is well placed to win over devout Islamists who abhor violence but are repelled by corruption in high places. He has a reputation for personal austerity, honesty and a direct touch that people identify with. But his writ will not run until King Fahd consents; and after this attack, the King may prove even more reluctant to bow out. It is dangerous for any absolute monarchy to lack, to all practical purposes, its absolute monarch. Illness in high places makes today's Saudi Arabia a vulnerable target.

## BRIEF LIVES IN OUR TIMES

Let us now praise famous men — not forgetting the women

The history of a nation is defined by the lives of its people. Today the life history of England and then Great Britain is taken a stage further by the publication of the final volume of *The Dictionary of National Biography*, reviewed on page 34 by Raymond Seitz. The affectionate and educated eye of the former American Ambassador to the Court of St James detects idiosyncrasies in the national character that escape natives, who are themselves shut inside this living history. But even we can see the diverse and diverting ways in which these 450 men and women have written our history over the last three generations.

They made the history, as well as writing its footnotes and exclamation marks. Brief lives have been an English particular from John Aubrey to his successors in the contemporary newspapers. Part of the pleasure of the *DNB*, as usual, is the skill with which its editor, Christine Nicholls, has matched biographers to their subjects, managing to tempt them to write for a customary scholarly fee. Alan Bennett on Russell Harty, Yehudi Menuhin on Jacques-Louis David, and so on — such biographies are queline du Pré — as such biographies are historic for their writers as well. There is more to contemporary history than grey more to contemporary performance. The political and economic performance. The section for "miscellaneous" occupations

includes Wallis Simpson and Lady Diana Cooper. And the brief lives are mischievous as well as objective: "Some of Roald Dahl's stories about himself were as tall as he was."

This is the last volume of that Victorian monument, the *DNB*. It will be subsumed into the *New DNB* early in the next millennium. Computerised and marshalled by specialists in the various fields, this will make room for history-makers neglected by the old *DNB*, such as women, classic murderers and pre-independence Americans.

The national biographers are having to find a new job description to cope with the historic function of housekeeper-cum-wife-cum-mother. "Housewife" seems inadequate for Elizabeth Baring, who brought up her sons after her husband's death to found the house of Baring Brothers. The *New DNB* will resurrect from oblivion such little history-makers as Thomas Emes, a prophet who failed to rise from the dead, whose fame rests not so much on any activity during his lifetime, but on the absence of it following his death.

The *DNB* raises life from the dead past. Its lives touch all who march on the long road of history without ever being memorialised in it. And it proves again that the British are still the best history-makers, in at least one sense of the words.

## The hand that holds the scalpel

From Sir Rodney Sweetnam,  
President of the Royal  
College of Surgeons of England

Sir, Your report (June 24) of a nurse performing over 200 operations raises wider issues than the immediately sensational. Nothing illegal has been done for, unlike with animals, there is no law against anyone operating upon patients.

The role of the nurse is rightly expanding as delegated authority for tasks for which they are trained are identified. Patients, though, need guidance if they are to give informed consent for operations by nurses, and other less qualified groups now taking up the scalpel. In most EU countries this is provided by doctors alone being permitted to operate. In the eyes of the public this may or may not be right, but it is high time the qualification to perform a surgical operation was laid down in statute.

It is no longer sufficient for my college to set, and do our best to maintain, the highest standards of surgical care by fully qualified surgeons, whilst at the same time, leader writers, such as your own ("The Nightingale tradition", June 24), imply that our standards are no better than "self-serving protectionism". It is the public that need protection, not surgeons.

Yours faithfully,  
RODNEY SWEETNAM,  
President,  
The Royal College of Surgeons of England,  
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.  
June 25.

From Mr David Tolley, FRCS,  
FRCSed

Sir, Surgeons should welcome the deployment of appropriately trained nurses to assist them with the performance of minor surgery. Such developments enable surgeons, particularly in hard-pressed specialties, to concentrate their efforts on those operations which require their skills. Patients will benefit from this more appropriate use of the surgeon's time.

One valid objection to this change, not addressed by your leading article, is that performance of these minor surgical procedures forms the basis of surgical training. The Calman changes have already reduced the time junior doctors spend in training grades and have separated the needs of the health service from surgical training.

Thus, if these minor procedures are no longer performed by trainee surgeons, basic surgical skills will be even harder to obtain. The increasing use of tissue simulators is an incomplete substitute for the performance of surgery on patients.

In Edinburgh, we believe that we have struck a balance between the need to improve the quality of care for patients and the requirements to train future surgeons. We have successfully employed radiographers to treat over 5,000 patients with kidney stones by lithotripsy (pulverisation) in the past eight years.

Clinical audit has confirmed that the treatment carried out on these patients is at least as good as the results obtained when patients are treated by junior doctors, who spend a limited time in the department. The doctors benefit too, as it allows for more structured training in stone management by freeing them from repetitive and simple tasks. Nursing staff also participate in stone management, spending much of their time counselling patients on various aspects of stone disease.

Thus, all have benefited from this approach: the surgeon, who is able to spend more time operating and developing new treatments; the trainee, whose day is spent more appropriately on training; nurses and radiographers, who feel more fulfilled as a result of their expanded role; and most of all the patient, who benefits from more individual attention and a higher standard of care.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID TOLLEY,  
(Director),  
Scottish Lithotripsy Centre,  
Western General Hospital,  
Edinburgh.  
June 24.

## Women and food

From the President of the National  
Council of Women of Great Britain

Sir, Foods scientists have suggested ("You say tomato, I say genetics", June 18) that women are more concerned than men about food containing genetically modified ingredients.

Recent findings by the National Council of Women indicate that this may indeed be so. Women, responsible for feeding the next generation, have yet to be convinced, in many cases, that genetic engineering would provide genuine benefits for the consumer.

Detailed consideration of the long-term nutritional effects of these new foods on young people would be welcome, together with a firmer commitment by the food industry on clear labelling information.

Further thought needs to be given to the balance between economic advantage to producers and consumer acceptance of nutritional value.

Yours faithfully,  
JEAN CLARK,  
President,  
The National Council of Women of Great Britain,  
36 Danbury Street, Islington, NI.  
June 18.

## Call for quality in digital television

From Mr Ray Fitzwalter  
and Mr John Woodward

Sir, The Broadcasting Bill has its final reading in the Commons next week. While lawyers at the Department of National Heritage procrastinate over whether the Independent Television Commission does or does not have a mandate to regulate the quality content of new digital services, the future of quality television hangs in the balance.

The Campaign for Quality Television and Britain's independent television production companies want to ensure that, in selecting licensees to run our new digital multiplexes, the ITC proposals for a programme-mix that includes quality elements — such as new and original British programming, independent production and programme production from the regions — are taken into account.

There is of course a balance to be struck in setting the framework for digital television between commercial

freedom and quality standards. The new media environment is extremely competitive. But the distinct British tradition of excellence in programme-making must not be lost in the interests of profit maximisation alone. Nor should the choices on which consumers base their decisions between new services be allowed to be bland versus bland.

We trust that Iain Sprouat, Minister of State, Department of National Heritage, will make it clear to the House that he is firmly endorsing quality in the Bill.

Yours faithfully,  
RAY FITZWALTER  
(Chairman,  
Campaign for Quality Television),  
JOHN WOODWARD  
(Chief Executive,  
Producers Alliance for Cinema  
and Television),  
Campaign for Quality Television Ltd,  
45 Loftus Road, W12,  
June 24.

## Dubious honour for British chat TV

From Mr Harry E. Turner

Sir, Many who work in British television maintain, with honest if slightly xenophobic conviction, that it is still the best in the world (letters, June 19).

It is difficult for me to be objective about a medium in which I worked for 30 years, but until recently I believed British TV talk shows were sliding into an abyss of banality, serving as cheap vehicles for second-rate actors or writers to hawk their wares or gush about their next mind-warping project. Only the Jeremy Paxman-type political interview seemed to me to carry any bite.

However, on a recent visit to New York I watched two of America's most successful talk shows several times: *Tonight*, with Jay Leno, and *Late with David Letterman*. To say they plumed the shallows or scraped the barrel of mediocrity would be to heap praise upon them.

Leno is the successor to Johnny Carson, who himself was no stranger to mindless patter. Previously a stand-up comedian, Leno has the rare ability

to say nothing of the smallest significance throughout. Commercial breaks punctuate the proceedings with machine-gun rapidity.

Letterman's forte is to joke incomprehensibly with the resident bandleader, a gnomish fellow with big headphones and a sad expression. My back-of-an-envelope calculations showed Letterman laughing at camera (10 per cent of the time), glancing knowingly at the bandleader (10 per cent), addressing flitting with him (10 per cent) and commercial breaks (60 per cent) (or so it seemed). The audience, howling with hysterical laughter, scored 85 per cent.

I know it doesn't add up, but neither does the show. Quite a feat, though, to make Cilla Black and Des O'Connor seem positively forensic in comparison.

Yours faithfully,  
HARRY E. TURNER  
(Chief Executive,  
TSW Television, 1985-92),  
Four Acres,  
Lake Road, Deepcut, Surrey.

## Habitat II conference

From Ms C. Gwendolyn Landolt

Sir, As a participant in the recent UN conference, *Habitat II*, in Istanbul, I would like to correct a misunderstanding apparent in your report of June 17, headed "Yadkin defeated on abortion rights".

It is true that intense controversy arose when Canada, the United States and the European Union introduced three elements into the *Habitat* documents. These were references to reproductive health (interpreted by the UN as including abortion, contraception and sterilisation); a provision that parental rights be secondary to an adolescent's right to privacy and confidentiality; and a broad definition of family so as to include homosexual/lesbian relationships. Members of the G77 group (a coalition of the 131 developing nations) raised strong objections to these provisions.

However, the agreement finally reached resulted in all references to reproductive health being deleted from the document, except for a token inclusion which was qualified by ironclad guarantees for national sovereignty and respect for the cultural, religious and ethical values of the member states. Parental rights were reasserted and recognition given to the family as the basic unit of society.

The real significance of this conference is that the developing nations gave clear notice that they are unwilling to accept the imposition of western policies and values which, in their view, are yet another form of colonialism.

Yours sincerely,  
C. GWENDOLYN LANDOLT  
(Chairperson),  
Caucus for Stable Communities,  
Box 8813 Station T,  
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3J1,  
June 24.

## Lords and Commons

From Mr Bob Dunn, MP for  
Darford (Conervative)

Sir, I find it novel that the Labour Party seems to equate the democratisation of the House of Lords with the introduction of political appointees (to replace hereditary peers) who will owe their membership of the Upper House entirely to political patronage (report, June 18).

If the House of Lords is to be reformed in part, but only to the extent that membership results from political appointment, then why bother to change a very successful model?

If, however, the House of Lords is to be democratically based, then which House — Commons or Lords — is to be the superior one?

I remain, yours faithfully,  
BOB DUNN,  
House of Commons,  
June 18.

From Sir Kenneth Lewis

Sir, Sir Fitzroy Maclean (report and obituary, June 18) was one of many

## Tennis targets?

From Mr David G. Chinn

Sir, I read with interest in your Wimbledon supplement today that the net-cord judges have been replaced by electronic sensors. Apparently this is to save the judges from the danger of being struck by errant tennis balls.

As play commenced, I was intrigued to note that the ball boys and girls are still crouching in the firing line at their accustomed positions by the net. Perhaps they are considered to be dispensable.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID G. CHINN,  
25 Lansdowne Road,  
Staines, Middlesex,  
June 24.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

## Police tactics in supermarket sting

From Mr C. D. H. Sharp

Sir, I have yet to see a clearer example of the long-discredited agent-provocateur method of detection than the one illustrated by your report, "Sainsbury's store loses licence in under-age sting" (June 25), where the police chose to pursue what is after all only a summary offence.

This kind of approach merely provokes the commission of a criminal offence where one might not have been committed and in fact comes perilously close, for example, to an undercover police officer inciting a known criminal to steal from a store and then arresting him for theft.

Such conduct does nothing to shore up public confidence in the police.

Yours faithfully,  
C. D. H. SHARP (Principal),  
Sharp Investigations,  
School Lane,  
Teitney, Grimsby, Lincolnshire,  
June 25.

From Mr Paul Freeman

Sir, The response by Sainsbury's to the loss of its licence to sell alcohol at its Monk's Cross store, in York, suggests to me there is no corporate responsibility. For a spokesman to complain about the methods used by the police, and even to consider an appeal, does the company no credit.

The public surely looks to companies such as Sainsbury's to make a moral contribution to the communities in which they make their profits and, in this case, to uphold the conditions accompanying an alcohol licence.

If the holders of alcohol licences are unable or unwilling to uphold the conditions laid down then the police must carry out further operations of this kind.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL FREEMAN,  
20 Heathwood Avenue,  
Barton-on-Sea, Hampshire,  
June 25.

## Counting the years

From Sir David Hunt

Sir, In a scientifically well-argued article in your issue of June 24, "The dawn of a new age", Mr Norris McWhirter discusses the place at which the very first sunrise of the third millennium can be seen. He gives no thought to the date of the event but merely assumes that it will be on January 1, AD 2000, which is in fact the first day of the last year of the second millennium, the last New Year's Day of the twentieth century.

I do not make these corrections out of pedantry. In these matters etymology and mathematics count for nothing: usage is supreme, and the whole world has firmly decided that the word millennium should denote a period of 999 years. I concur: I should only like to ask a question: suppose a writer desired to refer to a period of precisely a thousand years, what should he call it, now that the old name is unavailable?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.  
DAVID HUNT,  
Old Place, Lindfield, Sussex,  
June 25.

## Solstice gathering

From Mr Tom Claridge

Sir, Had the gathering at Stonehenge for yesterday's summer solstice (report, June 23) been a Christian festival, would there have been a four-mile exclusion zone, and 100 police in attendance?

Yours,  
T. A. CLARIDGE,  
53a Granada Road,  
Southsea, Hampshire,  
June 22.

## Postal strike

From Mr Hugh Newcomb

Sir, Whilst there is correspondence on the subject of the postal strike (letters, June 25), I think it opportune for you to print details of an advertisement in a book I have at hand about Cranbrook at the turn of the century.

"Letters posted by 8.55am delivered in London by 2.30pm the same day — posted by 12pm delivered by 6.30pm the same day". All, I suppose, for id.

Yours faithfully,  
HUGH NEWCOMB,  
Mount Ephraim Farm,  
Cranbrook, Kent,  
June 25.

## Read all about it

From Brigadier A. P. N. Currie

Sir, Stepping out on Saturday morning to buy my copy of *The Times*, I noticed that our prize hosta had been removed overnight. Returning some ten minutes later with the paper, I was brought up sharply by the heading "How to foil the plant thieves".

Would you please let me know what you will be featuring next Saturday, so that I can take appropriate precautions.

Yours faithfully,  
A. P. N. CURRIE,  
Ministry of Defence, (DPS(A)),  
Room 6/65,  
Metropole Building,  
Northumberland Avenue, WC2,  
June 24.

s who rub-ons at a law: they were one of the to hit theiriplinary tris-terday. million" was clients' ac-250-strong im by their rd, described charismatic an" master- was given a -for fraud. iam Bew, his Winstone, and three ity partners" appeared at disciplinary tri-hey admitted roffession into

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OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR WILLIAM WALSH

William Walsh, Professor of Commonwealth Literature, Leeds University, 1972-84, died on June 23 aged 80. He was born on February 23, 1916.

ASCHOLAR of integrity and firmness of mind, William Walsh had read English at Downing College, Cambridge, under P. R. Leavis. But though always holding his mentor in great esteem he was able in his own criticism to embody the Master's intellectual rigour without falling prey to his sometimes strident fanaticism.

A follower of Leavis, he yet never became the stereotypical "Leavisite" — one of that intolerant army of academic thought police who made life so trying (and confusing) for undergraduates in English departments in Britain and the Commonwealth for a number of years after Leavis himself had been eased out of Downing in the early 1960s. Thus, on lecture tours abroad, Walsh was always able to be an effective ambassador for the Leavis critical method, without spoiling his assertions with the famous Leavis dogmatism. As a lecturer he was fluent, witty and ironical and, above all, persuasive to a high degree.

Walsh drew his strength from the fact that, unlike Leavis, he was a man of catholic interests and varied abilities. His critical sympathies were broader and more generous, as is evident from the remarkable range of writers he wrote upon — from Coleridge through R. K. Narayan to Patrick White.

He had been responsible for the good early criticism of Commonwealth literature, and was appointed Britain's first Professor of Commonwealth Literature in 1972. He came to this after a spell in the chair of Education at Leeds, held from the young age of 41, and he was also one of the founding directors of Yorkshire TV.

William Walsh graduated from Downing in 1943. Later, acknowledging Leavis's decisive influence on his development, he was to write the first full-scale biography, *F. R. Leavis* (1980), of his tutor (and later, friend). It was a sympathetic but balanced study, generously ascribing Leavis's later cantankerousness to frustrated integrity.

Like many of Leavis's pupils, Walsh turned schoolmaster after graduating, and was senior English master at



Raynes Park County Grammar School from 1945 to 1951, while completing a part-time MA in education at London University. He then took up a lectureship in education at the University College of North Staffordshire (later Keele University) where he spent two years from 1951 to 1953, before going to Edinburgh, also as a lecturer in education.

In 1957 he was appointed to the chair and permanent headship in the Department of Education at Leeds, which he was to hold until 1972. This was an important tenure. He did much to strengthen the department's academic standing, and facilitated its swift expansion to meet the rapidly growing demand for teachers of that period.

Walsh published vigorously during his time at Leeds. His first book, *Use of Imagination* (1959), was followed by *A Human Idiom* (1965) which dealt, in the Leavis tradition, with literature and its place in an educated society. But his central interest during his period in the Department of Education

was Coleridge. His *Coleridge: The Work and the Relevance*, published in 1967, dealt persuasively with his prose — including letters and notebooks — as well as his poetry, to create a study which enabled the reader to feel its subject as a living being.

In his fifties Walsh turned to the emergent study of Commonwealth literature, and his first book in the field, *A Manifesto of Criticism*, appeared in 1970. A series of critical essays on writers from India, Africa, the West Indies, Australia, New Zealand and Canada, it was greeted by one reviewer with what must be the exceedingly rare accolade: "...one rarely nowadays encounters a critic who writes well enough himself to make one accept his right to criticism". In 1970, too, Walsh was appointed Australian Commonwealth Visiting Fellow. He already had strong links with Canada.

His appointment to the newly created chair in Commonwealth Literature in the School of English in 1972 was an imaginative one to the university's

part. But the school gained a first-rate administrator, who was head of department for six years during a period of financial stringency, and a scholar who was advancing the cause of this new subject by a series of books as well as visits to Commonwealth countries.

Among these were his *R. K. Narayan* (1972) for the British Council's *Writers and their Work* series; *V. S. Naipaul* (1972); *Commonwealth Literature* (1973); *Patrick White*; *Voss* (1973) and his fiction at large, *Patrick White's Fiction* (1977). He also published the first study of his long-standing friend, D. J. Enright (1974) and a book on Keats (1981). He then published a major study *R. K. Narayan: A Critical Appreciation* (1982). In these years he was also an active reviewer in a wide range of periodicals. In retirement he wrote *Indian Literature in English* (1990), a book which is regularly cited in bibliographies and student reading lists.

He served Leeds University long and diligently. From the time of his arrival in 1957 he was an almost permanent member of the Senate, serving at some point on every major committee and many others besides (at one time the administration reckoned that he was on thirty). On the death while in office, of the Vice-Chancellor, Lord Boyle, he was, though on the point of retirement, called back as acting vice-chancellor for two years, 1981-83.

He could hardly have taken the post at a more critical moment. It was the time of radical changes of thinking, at national level, about the funding and the purposes of universities. Along with other, similar institutions, Leeds had not perhaps realised at that moment just how far-reaching the changes were, or how severe was the consequent reduction in funding. Walsh was able to maintain morale, to keep the university solvent, and to hand over to his successor a tight ship with a healthy, if smaller, complement.

When later he received a richly deserved honorary degree, his presenter likened him to Cincinnatus. "Called from the plough to deliver his country from danger, he then laid down his office and returned to the plough." It was a fitting tribute to one who, beneath all his flamboyance, was at heart a modest man.

He is survived by his wife May, and a son and a daughter.

VERONICA GUERIN

Veronica Guerin, journalist, was killed in Dublin yesterday aged 33. She was born in 1963.

UNCOMPROMISING in her determination to uncover the truth, Veronica Guerin was an award winning Irish journalist who put a sharply honed investigative mind to work to expose some of the most nefarious criminal networks in Dublin. Writing weekly in the *Sunday Independent*, she portrayed the capital's underworld, describing its denizens through the use of nicknames — the Monk, the Walrus or the Penguin, for example — to evade libel laws. Chiefly she traced the sordid circles of drug dealing rings, although sometimes her investigations took her into territories overshadowed by the IRA's terrorist threat.

Guerin knew the details of many who felt severely compromised by her knowledge. She was a victim of a number of threatening attacks. Two years ago bullets shattered the windows of her cottage at Cloughan. Only a few months later she was wounded in the leg by a lone gunman to whom she had unwittingly opened her door. Another time she was viciously attacked after directly confronting a gangland leader with a barrage of hard hitting questions.

Yesterday she was gunned down as her car drew up at traffic lights.

Veronica Guerin had not always inhabited the dangerous world of the crime report-



er. She trained first as an accountant, but her strongest interests seemed to lie in the political realm. She was an ardent member of Fianna Fail in the early 1980s and when Charles Haughey was leader of the Opposition she worked as a researcher at the New Ireland forum.

She set up her own public relations firm before moving into journalism and taking a job first with *The Sunday Business Post* and then the *Sunday Tribune*. Her first scoop came with this second paper when she uncovered the whereabouts of Bishop

Eamonn Casey in Ecuador, which eventually led to the securing of an interview. She joined the *Sunday Independent* as a crime specialist but was seldom to be found in the newsroom. She preferred to work alone and developed a good relationship with the police. Last year she was awarded the International Press Freedom Award.

Outside her work she was a keen sportswoman and a former Irish international in football and basketball.

She is survived by her husband Graham, and by their son.

itors berip'd'ctor's fraud

ICES GIBB RESPONDENT

ctors who rubrications at a law idea they were er one of the ters to hit their disciplinary tri-d yesterday. £8 million was rm clients' ac-the 250-strong rd firm by their y Ford, described y charismatic vellan" master-a for fraud. William Bew, his of Winston. ire, and three equity partners" firm appeared at "disciplinary tri-e they admitted : profession into

struck off the l. The other three crshaw. 47, of Wear, Crook, urham: David of Woodhall Spa, and William Dorchester, Dor-each fined £5,000 to pay substantial sed costs. Hopper, for the , told the tribunal that Bew, 38, a y partner, narrow-losing his liberty s given a suspensi-e for furnishing ation. s the mastermind native affairs". The juity partners, unson and Elliot, nominally equals" was effectively the rector, Mr Hopper hree simply "rub-d" decisions made d were "in igno-he dishonesty that place. ndered £8 million ts simply to keep gs firm afloat. It 1992 "The protes-ave to bear" these r Hopper said, version, chairman, simply not accep-licitors to close their i as rubber stamps low the whistle."

NORMA TEAGARDEN

Norma Teagarden, jazz pianist, died in San Francisco on June 5 aged 88. She was born in Vernon, Texas, on April 29, 1911.

NORMA TEAGARDEN was the last survivor of one of the most musical families in jazz history. Her brothers Jack, Charlie and Cubby were all musicians, and her mother, Helen, was a ragtime pianist and teacher. Owing to Jack's fame as the most original of early white jazz trombonists, and his work with such luminaries as Louis Armstrong, Paul Whiteman and Bix Beiderbecke, Norma's career has been overlooked by many jazz historians and critics, not least because most of her best playing on record was as a member of her brother's band.

Yet she revealed herself as a magnificent swinging jazz pianist on her West Coast residencies in the 1970s and 1980s and on her 1986 British tour. She was capable of everything from rousing boogie-woogie to the gentle ragtime taught to her as a child by her mother. A recording of her version of *Little Rock Getaway*, with Jack Teagarden's Orchestra from March 1945 shows she had all the strength needed to hold her own in a big band.

Norma Louise Teagarden was born in the region called the Texas panhandle. Her father died while she was still a child, and eventually she moved with her mother to Oklahoma City. This was one of the areas where the so-called "territory bands" worked, touring the South and West and bringing jazz to a public generally starved of live entertainment. Like her brother Jack, who went on the road with territory bands led by pianist Peck Kelley and trumpeter Doc Ross, Norma found work in touring orchestras; but the first group she worked with in 1929 was based in New Mexico. Returning to Oklahoma in the 1930s she ended up leading her own band, garnering plenty of experience, but working for tiny wages during the Depression.

In the early 1940s, the whole family moved to Los Angeles, and Norma found work in San Pedro and Long Beach, playing with her own group



Jack and Norma Teagarden, 1957

and backing floorshow. She went on the road with Jack's big band from late 1943 to 1946, making her first records for Commodore in December 1944, including *Big "T" Blues*, in which Jack compliments her on her blues piano playing.

She endured the band's gruelling itinerary, made worse as the US call-up robbed them of players just as they had learnt the arrangements, and because of her brother's naive management.

She left Jack's group, formed her own band and worked in and around Los Angeles with Dixieland bands like those of Mary Mallick and Ben Pollack, until she went on the road with Ada Leonard, who led an all-female band, in 1949.

Jack's big band had left him debt-ridden. Although he wiped some of this off, while a member of Louis Armstrong's All Stars, he reformed a small group of his own in the early 1950s primarily to try to settle his debts. Norma joined Jack,

and again toured and recorded with him, notably in late 1953 when her other brother Charlie played trumpet. The family were reunited one more time on record in 1963, not long before Jack's death, when they recorded at Monterey and their mother also appeared briefly.

Norma left Jack's band, when she married John Friedlander. Marriage almost ended her playing career, although she continued to teach the piano. In 1975 she accepted an offer to play on a jazz cruise, and for over a decade afterwards came out of retirement to work regularly mainly at the Washington Bar and Grill. She recorded in The Netherlands on one European visit and also brought her group, the Marin County Band, to England. She recorded infrequently, and felt that since she did not have to play to live she would only play as long as she enjoyed it. Fortunately for all the admirers of her playing she continued to enjoy it well into the 1990s.

LORD ROTHERWICK

Lord Rotherwick, shipping magnate, died on June 11 aged 83. He was born on December 5, 1912.

LORD ROTHERWICK received unsought publicity eight years ago when he lost his fight to restrict public access to Wychwood Forest — 1,500 acres of ancient woodland on his Oxfordshire estate Cornbury Park, Oxfordshire County Council was granted the right, following a public inquiry, to open a mile-long loop through the trees in one of the last stretches of the primeval forest which had once covered much of southern England.

Access had previously been allowed only on Palm Sunday, and the change was hailed as a great victory by The Ramblers Association. The aggressive peer then caused more controversy by demanding £1.6m in compensation. The county council, taken aback,

offered £25,000, and the matter has been disputed ever since. Lord Rotherwick was to die with it still unresolved. But he had already earned a reputation as a shrewd and perceptive investor and manager of money.

He had been born (Herbert) Robin Cayer on the Lanfines estate, then owned by his family in Scotland. The Cayers (originally from Normandy) had moved north from Cornwall before Robin's grandfather had brought them fame and fortune by founding the Clan Shipping line in the last century. The first Lord Rotherwick, however, was Robin's father who had become a Conservative MP and been made a peer for political services before the last war.

Young "Bunny" — his mother's nickname for him which stuck throughout his life — was such a delicate baby that it was thought he would not survive being baptised in



church. The ceremony was carried out at home with a silver cup acting as the font. For similar reasons, he was held back from Eton for two years. But he overcame such health problems. He became James captain of his house at Eton and was later an accomplished foxhunter and point-to-point rider. He was also bright enough to win a place at Christ Church, Oxford, to read classics.

On graduating, he joined the family firm and served his apprenticeship at various branches of Clan Line Steamers in this country and South Africa before being caught up by the Second World War. Commissioned into the Royal Scots Greys, Cayer served in Palestine and the Western Desert as a major — but was invalided home with ear trouble just before his own tank was blown up and his successor killed.

Rejoining the Clan Line, Cayer worked in Glasgow and Liverpool before moving to the company's London headquarters in 1950. He succeeded his father to the title in 1958 and not long afterwards became deputy chairman of the British and Commonwealth Shipping Company — formed by a merger of the Clan Line with Union Castle.

The Cayers (mainly Rotherwick, his younger brother and a cousin) had an enviable gift for keeping

ahead of the market. Selling off ships as demand for sea travel declined they diversified into other more profitable fields, including aviation, hotels and finance. Displaying a similar prescience, they got out of British and Commonwealth Shipping before the group got into difficulties, selling their shares just before the 1987 stock market crash. But they continued to run their own holding company Caledonian Investments until six years ago when all three retired in favour of the younger generation.

Lord Rotherwick owned racehorses as a hobby, including the Irish Derby among his victories. But he sold out about five years ago, disappointed by his failure to win an English classic and disillusioned by the cut-throat professionalism which, he complained, was turning the sport into a business. Instead he concentrated his attentions on his Elm Cornbury Park, whose 6,000 acres he had bought in 1967 after selling his other estates. Queen Elizabeth II's favourite the Earl of Leicester had died there in 1888 (the bed in which he died is still there) while King Charles II and the Earl of Clarendon had been among its previous owners.

Lord Rotherwick was a shy, well-read man with old-fashioned values and who was capable of great charm, though he could not see why the public should be allowed to roam through the woods which he paid to maintain. An active local Conservative he had once been turned down as a parliamentary candidate by Central Office.

His wife Sarah-Jane died after a stroke in 1978, aged 48, and he is survived by their three sons and one daughter. His eldest son succeeds him as the third baron.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS: £1,000 REWARD for victims of... Mrs J. Neenan, Court & Social Advertising, Level 5, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9BD. Tel: 0171 782 7347. Fax: 0171 481 9313.

Kidney Research Saves Lives: Please help with a donation now and a legacy later. NATIONAL KIDNEY RESEARCH FUND. 3 Arches Court, Shady Road, Westbury, Wiltshire, Wiltshire, Wiltshire, Wiltshire. Tel: 01245 455 222.

THE NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY SPRING RAFFLE: Draw date 15th June 1996. Winning ticket numbers appeared yesterday, however one was incorrect. The winning number for Bookers should have read C094180 and not C09418.

Remember The Donkeys And We'll Remember You!: Over 6,700 donkeys have been taken into care many from lives tormented by cruelty and neglect. A donkey is never turned away from our Sanctuary and never put down unless there is no longer any quality of life. We need your help to continue rescuing donkeys and to secure their future on one of our nine farms. A bequest to the donkeys will help immensely and your name will be inscribed on our Memory Wall and will be blessed at our annual St Francis Day Memorial Service. A copy of our "Guide to Making a Will" is available on request. The Donkey Sanctuary, (Dept TM), Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 0NU. Tel: (01395) 578222. Enquiries to Dr E. D. Svendsen, MBE Reg. Charity No. 264818.

A HOME FOR LIFE: We help people of all ages in their own homes or in our refuge residential and nursing homes. Regencies of changing circumstances and the ability to pay, we can offer the security of a home for life. Help us by sending your donation to: DGA, Home Life, PO Box 100, London W8 5SR or for further information call FREephone 0800 415 225.

Mavis is still helping her oppo: Fifty years have passed since Mavis and her 'oppo' Beryl, serviced Spitfires at Biggin Hill. Today, Beryl's sight has failed but Mavis still helps her out through donations to the Fund. You can ensure we are always there to help the whole RAF family across ground staff, serving as well as RAF, their spouses and dependent children by making a donation now and remembering us in your Will.

NEW WIMBLEDON. OPENING BY THE KING. (From Our Special Correspondent.) The fates yesterday were less kind to Commander Hillyard and those who had helped him to build the new Lawn Tennis Ground at Wimbledon than their energy and ingenuity deserved. Rain fell almost continually, and there was no play at all on the unprotected courts. But the worst did not happen. The ground was honoured by a visit from the King and Queen: the King formally opened the ground, and there was play on the centre court. With play postponed there was the more opportunity for examining the ground and stand, and both came in for high praise, although some anxiety was expressed whether the courts, which are soft to the touch, would stand the strain of a fortnight's play. But most people were optimistic and informed one another in the drizzle that Mlle. Lenglen had told them in the strictest confidence that she had never felt better in her life and was going to play after all. It is to be hoped that this information is correct, for the French lady will be, if possible, an even greater "draw" than she was last year. The great question of Mlle. Lenglen thus satisfactorily disposed of, the crowd, which

ON THIS DAY June 27, 1922: It was a great day for tennis when King George V and Queen Mary came to open what The Times called the New Lawn Tennis Ground at Wimbledon. Though smaller than was arranged for, was surprisingly large for the weather, took a late luncheon or early tea, and saw what Captain Stanley Peach, the architect, had done and decided it was very good. Suddenly there was a stir under the shadows thrown by the deep roof of the stand, and it was seen that all the covered part was, in reality, dense with people. All stood up, a hidden band struck up the National Anthem, and the King and Queen, escorted by officials, entered the Royal Box. Their Majesties were most warmly greeted, and it was universally appreciated that they should have shown their good will to the New Ground and to the game by being present when it was doubtful whether there would be any play for them to see. Then the rain relented. At 3.30 the King, who had withdrawn, returned to the Royal Box. He struck three blows on a gong—the ground was open. At once the reefer pulled back the tarpaulin—and very nearly they did it—and the new Centre Court was revealed. To the eye it looked as smooth as if the green had been poured on molten, and, however it may play in the later stages, yesterday in appearance it was own brother to the old Centre Court, and a big brother too. It was an hour behind the advertised time when Colonel Kingscote and Mr. Godfree came out to play the first match. To Mr. Godfree fell the distinction of serving the first ball; to Colonel Kingscote that of being the first player to hit the net, into which he firmly and respectfully returned that historic service. After that Mr. Godfree made three pairs of faults. This opening game was not a great one—but everyone was too well pleased that it should have been possible to play it at all to be critical. It was won by Colonel Kingscote, as was the first set and the first match. The court played true; it looked to be very fast, the ball coming straight on from the pitch without the least "hang." At the end of the match there were a few brownish footmarks in the velvet pile.

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND: Don't forget to support the fund. Tel: 0171 481 9313.

IRECT

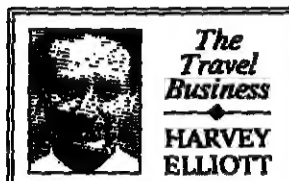


## Bad PR adds to fear of flying

The worried reactions of passengers on being told that their aircraft had developed a number of technical faults proves yet again just how scared people are of flying.

Irrational though their fears may have been, within the past week three groups of British holidaymakers refused to get on board jets which they had been assured, were serviceable.

Passengers on Excalibur Airways demanded that the airline charter another jet to take them to Florida after becoming convinced that the original DC10 was "jinxed" and the resulting publicity was so bad that last night the airline was forced into liquidation. A group of Virgin



The Travel Business  
HARVEY ELLIOTT

Atlantic passengers were equally alarmed when they were delayed for more than 48 hours by a series of faults on their Boeing 747 jumbo jet at San Francisco.

Problems can become exaggerated with reports of a pilot having "slammed on the brakes" when, in fact, he abandoned a take-off perfectly safely; of jet fuel fumes apparently "choking" passengers; and of normal condensation drips proving that the fuselage was "leaking".

But they must be properly addressed — and above all they must never be allowed to persuade pilots to ignore technical problems, however minor, in an attempt to prevent a public relations difficulty.

As the summer peak holiday season gets under way mechanical failures are inevitable, especially as charter airlines are using their jets to the maximum. Fortunately pilots carry out intense pre-flight checks and do not take risks with safety.

That means that it is sometimes necessary for aircraft to be delayed so that engineers can investigate the cause of a pilot's unease or for a part to be replaced.

Generally the bigger the airline the more able it will be to minimise any such delays by juggling its fleet and crews to provide replacements, or by leasing a spare aircraft.

Small airlines rarely have such spare capacity. Often their entire fleet is dispersed over thousands of miles. But this does not mean they are intrinsically any less safe or more prone to mechanical defects than their bigger rivals. Their fleets are maintained by the same engineers in the same hangars as the bigger airlines. And they are all watched over by inspectors from the Civil Aviation Authority.

The real potential for trouble comes when marketing men try to avoid having to explain to angry passengers why they are being delayed. Ideally, perhaps, there should always be a spare aircraft ready to operate services which might have run into technical difficulties. But economically that is unrealistic. Instead passengers must try to be patient.

When travelling by air it must surely be a better thing to arrive than to travel hopefully.

## Holiday bookings start to pick up

BY STEVE KEENAN

HOLIDAY sales in May outstripped last year's month on month figures for the first time this season as families have now started booking for the summer. Chris Rees, commercial manager for Thomas Cook, said: "Families are leaving it later to book this year's holiday."

More than 784,500 package holidays were sold in May, compared to 746,270 in the same month last year, according to industry research analysts STA Travel. But overall the market is still 10 per cent down year on year.

Of the 8.5 million package holidays on sale for this summer, 5.9 million had been sold by the end of May. Peak-season holidays are now largely selling at brochure prices, with cheap deals available mainly for June or early July.

The best of the few bargains expected for school holidays will be to the Greek Islands, Cyprus and France, where

sales are still running below 1995 levels, despite fewer holidays being available.

Cuts of 1.5 million packages were made earlier this year by tour operators, but most of them were to Spain and its islands, where demand is now running in line with capacity.

Mr Rees said: "After the sluggish start to the season, there has been a steady increase in bookings since Easter. If it continues, we would expect Spain to finish on a par with last summer."

The new maturity among tour operators and the resurgence in appeal of Mediterranean package holidays this year has encouraged Thomas Cook to re-enter the market after an absence of six years.

The company will announce next week that it has bought package holiday specialist Sunworld, Britain's fifth biggest tour operator, which it will operate alongside its own long-haul brochures.

### TOP SELLERS FOR SUMMER 1996

	Sales to date	Compared with 1995 (% to end May)
1 Balearic Islands	1,125,000	-15
2 Ireland Spain	858,500	-11
3 Greek Islands	643,500	-25
4 Canary Islands	532,000	-17
5 Turkey	465,000	+3
6 Florida	324,000	+21
7 Italy	292,500	+8
8 France	236,000	-26
9 Portugal	233,500	-18
10 Cyprus	219,000	-25

Package holidays Source: STA Travel

## Haiti returns to the package business

BY TONY DAWE

HAITI, the country associated for so long with "Papa Doc" Duvalier and his feared Tonton Macoutes, is back on the tourism map.

Within four months of being democratically elected as head of state, President René Préval has met officials of the Caribbean tourism and hotel organisations and a tourism master plan has been drawn up.

Large hotels in and around Port-au-Prince, the capital, are fit and ready to take visitors, having been kept in business by UN officials and aid workers in recent months. Smaller hotels and a Club Méditerranée are gearing up, and American Airlines is keen to help to enlarge facilities at the main airport.

The meetings with President Préval were among the most productive conferences we have ever had with government officials. John Bell, vice-president of the Caribbean Hotels Association, said: "It is also encouraging to see Haiti's public and private tourism sectors working together on the implementation of the tourism plan."

Michael Youngman, the marketing director of the Caribbean Tourism Organisation, said: "We have started carrying information about Haiti again in literature dis-

tributed to the travel trade and consumers. We are including the country in our seminars and educational presentations and our public relations programme on both sides of the Atlantic will include Haiti. We are bringing the country out into the light again."

The country attracted more than 200,000 tourists, mostly from the United States, ten years ago, but the numbers have fallen dramatically during the years of troubles while the Dominican Republic, separated from Haiti by a mountain range, has boomed. Haiti has the largest inventory of hotel rooms in the Caribbean and offers mostly beach and resort holidays to package tourists from North America, Germany, Italy and, increasingly, Britain.

The Caribbean tourist board is concentrating on showing off Haiti's culture, history and arts and crafts. "Even from a geographical point of view, it is unique," Mr Youngman said. "If you head north from Port-au-Prince by road, you pass through villages reminiscent of West Africa and then across a plain where the water buffaloes and rice paddies remind you of Asia, while the mountains in the north have an Andean charm."



Now that flights have resumed to Croatia, Dubrovnik, one of Europe's most handsome cities, hopes to win back the tourists

## Croatia back on the tourist map

BY MARTIN SYMINGTON

CROATIA'S struggling tourist industry has received an important fillip from the London-based European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). A loan of more than £20 million will help finance the upgrading of hotels, marinas, camp sites and other facilities.

Marc Mogall of the EBRD explained: "Though direct war damage was limited, the use of hotels to house refugees has left these facilities in desperate need of repair. The loan signals to the international markets that Croatian tourism is open for business."

With charter flights from UK airports now serving Pula, Split and Dubrovnik,

10,000 British holidaymakers are expected to visit Croatia on inclusive package holidays this year, according to Jose Loez of the Croatia National Tourist Office in London. However, the road back to the pre-war days when up to half a million Britons a year basked on Yugoslav beaches, the great majority in present-day Croatia, looks a long one.

Mr Loez said "Croatia desperately needs investment after four years of total stagnation. Tourism is crucially important to the country, so this loan is very welcome, although we hope it will be

expanded. The problem is that negative perceptions linger, and the return of the British is proving to be slow."

The majority of holidaymakers in Croatia are Germans, Austrians and Italians who drive to resorts such as Porec in the north of the country. Further south, the historic city of Dubrovnik is far more dependent on the air charters, and hence the British market.

Specialist operator Phoenix Holidays is the only UK company offering a full range of Croatian resorts, but unfavourable reports in the travel trade suggest that leading operators are set to include Croatia in their 1997 brochures.

## Themed marketing as Disney goes to town

BY DAVID CHURCHILL

EURO DISNEY is planning to develop a new town on the edge of its Disneyland Paris theme park resort which will contain houses and flats for at least 1,500 residents, a giant shopping mall, offices, a business park and a campus for the nearby university.

Disney has already started development work on the new town, to be called Val d'Europe, and is making presentations to business investors to finance the scheme. The projected cost of Val d'Europe, scheduled to open its first phase by 2000, is about five billion francs (£640 million) but because of its fragile

financial state, Euro Disney is expected to invest only about Fr100 million (£13 million).

Philippe Bourguignon, chairman of Euro Disney, says the new town "will be an important feature of the future development of the region and the success of the theme park resort in the next century."

Val d'Europe is similar in concept to the new town called Celebration which Disney is building close to its theme park in Florida. Celebration, on 5,000 acres of land, is eventually planned to have a population of 20,000 when the final phases are completed in 2016. It has been criticised, however, for adopting too strict criteria for potential residents, who will have to conform to the Disney image.

Euro Disney is not saying at present whether or not its residents at Val d'Europe will have to adhere to certain standards before being allowed to buy or rent property. Its investment literature talks only of creating "a positive tension between the resort destination and the real town."

Meanwhile Euro Disney, which is now marketed under the name of Disneyland Paris, will launch its direct Eurostar train service from London

Waterloo to the heart of the theme park resort at Marne-La-Vallée this Saturday. There will be a daily train service until September 29 priced at £139 return a person, including one night's accommodation and a pass to the theme park. Details: 0990 030303.

### TRAVEL ON SATURDAY

Travel the world again in Weekend to St Petersburg, Arizona and Florida

Sail the Caribbean Dive in Sulawesi Walk in Cornwall

Plus Insider's Paris and Travel Tips

## Colonel to the rescue

TWO contrasting expeditions later this year, both being led by John Blashford-Snell, the explorer and retired Army colonel, are seeking eco-tourists. The Scientific Exploration Society is organising the missions to help a native tribe living on the border of Guyana and Brazil, and to develop tourism at a famous site 9,000ft up an Ethiopian plateau.

Col Blashford-Snell still needs more expert helpers for the expedition, which leaves Britain on August 17.

The mission to Ethiopia in October to provide an eco-tourism guide to the Magdala area, scene of a battle between Britain and Abyssinia in 1868, also needs more helpers.

Scientific Exploration Society Expedition Base, Motcombe, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 9PB.

### From Russia...

THE RUSSIANS are developing a taste for foreign travel and within the past five years have become some of Europe's most prolific holidaymakers. A new survey by European Travel Monitor of Munich shows that travellers from Russia, the Ukraine and Belarus last year took 33 million trips abroad, about the same number as those from France and The Netherlands.

### Quick visa

FROM October, travellers from the UK will be able to receive an Australian visa instantly when they book their flights. Visa stamps are to be replaced by an electronic system working through travel agents and airlines.

### Bye bye boards

ONE of England's 11 remaining regional tourist boards is to be dissolved, and its duties shared by two neighbouring boards. The East Midlands region is to be divided between the existing East Anglia and Heart of England boards. The move is intended to reduce bureaucracy and save money after government funding cuts. But holidaymakers may find local information harder to obtain. And hotels and tourist attractions may refuse to support the new look regional boards.

### Easy money?

TRAVELLERS' cheques are about to be challenged by a new brainwave, the holiday credit card. The Royal Bank of Scotland has launched a pilot scheme for what it calls an electronic Travellers' Cheque or Visa Travel/Money Card.

Holidaymakers load between £100 and £5,000 onto an electronic card and can then withdraw cash 24 hours a day in local currencies from a global network of 270,000 machines at Visa outlets in 95 countries.

### Travel Promotion

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# Bargains of the week — from a holiday tracking crocodiles in South Africa to a short break in Normandy

## FERRIES

BRITANNIA Ferries this week launching three-day "value plus" crossings to France from £45 for a car and up to five people. The fares can be combined with hotel vouchers costing £15.50 per person. Details: 0990 360360.

■ P&O European Ferries has mini-cruise fares on its Portsmouth-Bilbao route throughout the year from £59 per person, based on two travelling including cabin. Details: 0990 980980.

■ STENA Line is selling peak return crossings on the Dover-Calais route for £98 aboard its Stena Cumbria ship only, to include a car and up to nine passengers. The company also has short breaks, including ferry and one night B&B in Normandy, from £65 per person. Details: 0990 707070.

■ SEA France is offering a free five-day crossing (for use after October 1) to customers who book and pay for a standard or five-day crossing by July 11. Details: 0990 711111.

■ HOPPER has £69 standard returns (£49 for five-day crossings) for travel on Dover-Calais or Folkestone-Boulogne by July 17, to include a car and five passengers. Book through Eurodrive. Details: 0181-324 4000.

## HOLIDAYS

A TURKISH adventure trip leaving on Monday for Istanbul, remote villages, historic sites, caves and snorkelling is available for £800 per person including return flights and bed and breakfast accommodation from Explore Worldwide. Details: 01252 319448.

■ A LONG weekend in Moscow to see the famous Schliemann Treasures from Troy, and the chance to join other excursions, is available from September 19 to 22 from Abercrombie & Kent. Travel for £698 per person includes British Airways return flights. Details: 0171-730 9600.

■ AMERICAN Express Travel Service is offering three-night weekend breaks for the price of two to Madrid from July 1 to 14, cutting the cost per person including Iberia flights to £251, a saving of £137. Details: 0345 700400.

■ FAR EAST bargains are on offer from Monday for four months from Jetabout to mark the new Qantas one-stop service to the region from Manchester, including five nights in Bangkok from £465 per person and eight nights in Bali from £670. Details: 0181-741 3111.

■ DISCOUNTS of 10 per cent on all holidays to Morocco

until the end of September, giving savings of up to £70 per person per week, have been announced by Cadogan Holidays. Details: 01703 332661.

■ THE GAMBIA for £299 per person for a fortnight with a flight from Manchester on July 4 is available from Page & Moy. Price includes bed and breakfast accommodation. Details: 0116-250 7116.

■ CRETE for £189 per person for a fortnight from July 4 with room-only accommodation is available from Lunn Poly with a flight from Stansted. Details: 01203 527511.

■ MEDITERRANEAN Shipping Cruises are being offered at two for the price of one by Ember Travel, with 12-day cruises from Genoa leaving on July 7 and 18 for Greek and Egyptian ports costing from £620 per person including flights. Details: 0181-337 8053.

■ EARTHWATCH is making awards of up to £250 to anyone willing to spend up to two weeks on its scientific field research projects this summer. This will cut the cost — excluding flights — of tracing the first Americans in the Midwest to £680 and tracking crocodiles in South Africa to £796. Details: 01865 311600.



A long weekend in Moscow will cost £698 including flights

## HOTELS

THE Stafford Hotel in central London reopened this week after a major refurbishment. The hotel has a reopening rate of £163 plus VAT per room until September 7. Details: 0171-493 0111.

■ THE Small Luxury Hotels of the World consortium, with 207 hotels in more than 40 countries, is selling gift vouchers in multiples of £50 for personal or incentive gifts. Details: 01372 361873.

■ STAPLEFORD Park, the Leicestershire-based country house hotel, has an "alternative Olympics" rate from July 1 until September 1 of £72.50 per person instead of the normal rate of £125. The hotel offers tennis, clay pigeon shooting, riding, croquet and horse-shoe tossing. Details: 01572 787522.

■ THREE nights for the price of two is on offer during August for any nights, excluding Saturdays, at Bath's Royal Crescent Hotel. Cost is £275 per person to include three nights' accommodation, breakfast, dinner on two nights, a cream tea and champagne and flowers on arrival. Details: 01225 739955.

■ THE four-star Carlton President hotel near the Dutch town of Utrecht has a summer rate for July and August of

£39.50 per person for two nights. Price includes buffet breakfast and a canal trip around Amsterdam. Details: 0181-908 3348.

■ SPANISH hotel group Sol Melia is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the birth of painter Francisco de Goya with a special rate at six of its hotels in Madrid and Zaragoza starting at £55 per night for a double room, with a minimum two-night stay. Details: 0800 282720.

■ SAVINGS of 20 per cent off usual prices at selected UK hotels are on offer from Superbreak Mini-Holidays. Typical is the Warwick Castle, Blackpool, where the rate is £31.60 per person per night half-board during July and August. Details: 01904 679999.

■ CONFERENCE delegate overnight rates at the two Copthorne hotels at Gatwick are being cut from July 15 to August 31 from £138 to £98, with the day rate down from £38 to £28. All sports facilities are included in the price. Details: 0800 414741.

■ BREAKFAST and dinner is included in the price of £45 per person per night, minimum two nights, at Nutfield Priory at Redhill in Surrey. Details: 01737 822066.

## FLIGHTS

BRITISH Airways' latest series of world offers covers peak-season flights in July and/or August. Examples: Berlin £99, Geneva £89, Madrid £89, Munich £109, Nice £99, Prague £109, Verona £139, Vienna £149, Zurich £189. Book by July 17. Details: 0345 222111.

■ CITYJET has half-price companion excursions between London's City Airport and Dublin. The first ticket costs £84. Details: 0345 445588.

■ UNTIL September 10, Continental is offering two business-class flights for the price of one. The deal covers roundtrip flights from Gatwick both to New York itself and onward to any of 125 US mainland destinations. Details: 0800 747800.

■ SUCKLING will launch a twice-daily Norwich to Paris service on July 1. Fares start at £120. Details: 01223 293393.

■ CB Airways has £159 seat sale fares to Jerez, Merica and Valencia in southern Spain during part of the peak season. Details: 0345 222111.

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